

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information.

 x New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Civilian Conservation Corps on Ashland and Beartooth Districts, Custer Gallatin National Forests, Montana

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Establishment of Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-1942

Civilian Conservation Corps in Montana 1933-1942

Civilian Conservation Corps on the Ashland District 1934-1936

Civilian Conservation Corps on the Beartooth District – 1933, 1939-1941

C. Form Prepared by:

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

Signature of certifying official

Title

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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Provide narrative explanations for each of these sections on continuation sheets. In the header of each section, cite the letter, page number, and name of the multiple property listing. Refer to *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* for additional guidance.

Introduction

Establishment of Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942

Civilian Conservation Corps in Montana, 1933-1942

Civilian Conservation Corps on the Ashland District, 1934-1936

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E. Statement of Historic Contexts

(If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

INTRODUCTION

The Custer Gallatin National Forest now encompasses the former Custer National Forest, the easternmost forest within Region 1 (the Northern Region) and containing public lands in Montana and South Dakota.¹ The Custer Gallatin National Forest retains the three widely scattered districts of the former Custer National Forest. In Montana, the districts include the Ashland District and the Beartooth District. The Sioux District is located in Montana and South Dakota. This context documents the presence of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest between the years 1933 and 1941. The Forest Service controlled and supervised all CCC work projects within both districts.

Situated in southeastern Montana between the Tongue River and Powder River, the Ashland Ranger District, formed by the erosion of an old plateau, displays diverse mixed vegetation that range from stands of ponderosa pine and hardwood draws to sagebrush and open upland grasslands. The Ashland District contains 502,152 acres of which 87% are public land and 13% are under private ownership. Primary use of the district is livestock grazing.²

The Ashland District was originally within the Otter Creek Forest Reserve designated by a Presidential Proclamation in March 1907 and became part of the Custer National Forest in 1908. In the early 1930s, the present-day Ashland Ranger District was divided into three divisions: the Fort Howes Division encompassed the southern half; the Twenty-Mile Division presumably comprised the middle portion; and the Ashland Division occupied the northern portion. In 1934, the Ashland and Fort Howes Divisions absorbed the Twenty-Mile Division. In 1981, the Ashland and Fort Howes Divisions combined into the present-day Ashland District. From July 1934 to January 1936, the Ashland District participated in the CCC program established to relieve unemployment caused by the drought and depression throughout the nation. The Ashland District housed two CCC camps. The primary work projects conducted by the CCC work force included road

¹ The Custer National Forest merged with the Gallatin National Forest in late 2014.

² For a general review of the Ashland District resources, refer to USDA Forest Service Northern Region, "Land Management Plan for the Ashland Division Planning Unit, Custer National Forest (Montana)," October 1978, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT.

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construction, range improvements, telephone line construction, forest products, and ranger station construction.³

The Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer National Forest is located in southcentral Montana and embraces the foothills and mountains of the Beartooth Mountains. About 345,000 acres of the 945,000 Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is located in the Beartooth Ranger District. The Beartooth District receives heavy recreation use, augmented by the spectacular Beartooth Highway opened in 1936 that travels from Red Lodge to Cooke City, Montana.

The Beartooth District was part of the Beartooth National Forest, created in 1908 from lands originally reserved for Yellowstone National Park. In 1932, the Beartooth National Forest and the Pryor Mountain Forest Reserve became part of the newly established Custer National Forest.

In the early 1930s, the present-day Beartooth District consisted of several districts, including the Rock Creek District and the Stillwater District. In 1933, the Beartooth District housed one of the first CCC camps in Montana and later acquired a CCC summer camp from 1939 to 1941. The work projects undertaken by these camps concentrated on recreational developments and improvements, including work on roads, trails and campgrounds.⁴

ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, 1933-1942

President Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 21, 1933 introduced to Congress and the nation his plan to put “young men to work in the woods”⁵ His message on the “Relief of Unemployment” presented three primary goals: to quickly provide for the enrollment of the unemployed by the federal government without interfering with normal employment; to provide relief grants to states; and lastly to develop a broad, labor intensive public works program.⁶

Roosevelt recommended Congress create

. . . a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects This type of work is of definite, practical value, not only through the prevention of great financial loss, but also as a means of creating future national wealth

The enterprise will . . . conserve our precious natural resources and more important than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work We can take a vast army of unemployed out into healthful surroundings It is not a panacea for all the unemployment, but it is an essential step in this emergency.⁷

³ For the purposes of this report, the name Ashland District will encompass both historic divisions; “History of the Custer National Forest,” no author, circa 1946, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT, 11; Wilson F. Clark, “A General History of Custer Forest,” 1982, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT, 3.

⁴ For the purposes of this report, the name Beartooth District will be used encompass both historic divisions; “History of the Custer National Forest,” no author, circa 1946, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT; Wilson F. Clark, “A General History of Custer Forest,” 1982, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT, 12.

⁵ John A. Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1967), 4. John Salmond is the definitive reference in regard to administration of the CCC program. A study directly pertinent to Montana is James A. Hanson, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Northern Rocky Mountains,” (Ph.D diss., University of Wyoming, 1973). See also Department of Agriculture Forest Service, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-42*. by Alison T. Otis et al. August 1986.

⁶ Ibid, 12.

⁷ U. S. House, 73rd Congress, 1st Session, *Message from the President of the United States on Unemployment Relief*, Miscellaneous House Document #6, Serial Set 9751.

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Congress responded quickly to his recommendation and passed legislation signed by the president that authorized him to proceed with his work relief plans. On April 5, 1933, President Roosevelt under Executive Order 6101 established the Emergency Conservation Work program (ECW) that became more commonly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He appointed Robert Fechner, a conservative labor leader, as the director of the new program. The Secretaries of War, Agriculture, Interior and Labor appointed representatives to serve on a policy advisory council to the program. The success of the CCC required the cooperation, coordination and precise divisions of responsibility by these four federal agencies.⁸

The Department of Labor administered enrollment, utilizing existing local and county relief organizations that conducted the selections. The Labor Department also established acceptance standards and quotas based on state populations. Roosevelt set a goal that 250,000 young men be enrolled in the CCC program by the beginning of July. The selection process varied over the years but initially the men called “juniors” had to be unemployed, unmarried, between 18 and 25 years of age and in acceptable physical condition. The enlistment period (called installment periods) was for six months, not to exceed two years, for a monthly allowance of \$30 of which \$25 was sent to a dependent. The program soon modified its enrollment policy. Originally denied enrollment, Native Americans were soon included due to the severe depression on the reservations. Later local experienced men (known as LEM’s) and veterans gained eligibility to the CCC enrollment. Although the law prohibited discrimination, the enrollment of African Americans was limited and generally restricted to segregated camps.⁹

The War Department (Army) mobilized the CCC and had control of the CCC men except during working hours outside the camp. The administration, organization of camps including construction, and provisions and care of men, including conditioning, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, recreation, health and supplies, became the responsibility of the Army. They also provided both religious and educational programs at the camps. The War Department decentralized into nine Corps areas in which each region directed its own CCC operations.

The first CCC camp, Camp Roosevelt, opened on April 17, 1933, in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. Less than three months later, about 300,000 men occupied approximately 1500 camps throughout the United States. The Army controlled the mobilization of the camps and men. The Army organized the camps in 200-man units called companies and conducted the operation in a military fashion. The construction of the camps followed Army specifications, resulting in fairly uniform camp organization. Although most original camps were tent camps, by the end of 1933, lumber became the accepted building material at the fixed or rigid CCC camps. By 1935, portable camp buildings became the preferred building alternative, easy to assemble and cost-effective.¹⁰

While the Army controlled all operations in the camp itself, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior served as the technical services agencies responsible for work projects. The work project possibilities on the public lands were endless and one of the lasting monuments to the CCC is the amazing array of buildings, roads, trails, bridges and other structures built during this period. The Forest Service, under the Department of Agriculture,

⁸ Executive Order 6101 “Relief of Unemployment Through the Performance of Useful Public Work,” April 5, 1933. The program was almost immediately referred to as the CCC. The CCC became an independent agency on July 1, 1937 by an Act of Congress. For the purposes of this report, the program will be referred to as the CCC.

⁹ Hanson, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Northern Rocky Mountains,” 41-42; see also Otis, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-1942*, 5-12; Salmond, 37.

¹⁰ Otis, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps*, 71-81.

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unquestionably was the most important technical service. The Forest Service directed and supervised all the work on National Forests lands plus state and private forest lands. It also provided assistance to other agencies, like the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), for their forestry conservation projects. The primary Department of Interior agencies involved in the CCC program included the National Park Service and the Division of Grazing.¹¹

The Forest Service was the greatest provider of “technical service” to the CCC program since it had the most camps and therefore directed extensive work projects on national forest lands. The Forest Service had the responsibility to plan and program all work projects, including establishing standards, methods and specifications. Away from the main CCC camp, the Forest Service had complete control over the supervision of the CCC enrollees during the time they were at work. The Forest Service was responsible for all transportation relative to work projects and all materials, work tools and equipment utilized on projects.¹²

Forest Service employees served as technical personnel. A camp superintendent directed all work handled by the CCC men. Skilled professionals like engineers planned and designed the work projects while technical foremen, experienced in a particular field, ran the project. A non-skilled foreman supervised the day by day field work. Mechanics ran and cared for the machinery.¹³

Local experienced men, called LEM’s, were often the most important CCC enrollees on a work project crew. This skilled labor force of local men, knowledgeable of the country and generally experienced with the type of work being done, became invaluable to the Forest Service in the successful completion of CCC work projects.

Forest Supervisors would submit a Master Plan of Work for the CCC camps on their forests to their Regional Office. These master plans recommended work projects, indicated the type of construction involved (construction, reconstruction or maintenance), gave an approximate project size (miles or acres) and calculated the number of man-months required to complete the project. The Regional Office reviewed the work plan, approved or disapproved projects, made their own recommendations or requested further information. The Regional Office also sent Forest Service inspectors out to CCC camps who investigated the progress of the CCC work projects.

Work projects were designated by the number of man-days estimated to complete a project. The hours of work allowed for CCC enrollees were eight hours per day from Monday to Friday. The workday would include one hour for lunch. Travel time between the main camp and the work site and the return was not to exceed one hour. Adherence to these strict work hours caused difficulty for the Forest Service. Long distances, poor roads and inclement weather often intervened and shortened the workday affecting productivity. The creation of spike camps (or side camps) helped relieve this problem.

Spike camps were field camps with small numbers of enrollees, situated at a distance from the main camp “to achieve greater efficiency in labor and transportation and to provide project diversity.” Although originally approved as an experimental program, it soon became apparent that spike camps successfully accomplished numerous work projects and they became widely used by all forests.¹⁴

¹¹ Hanson, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Northern Rocky Mountains,” 32.

¹² Evan W. Kelley to Forest Supervisors, April 13, 1933, Folder 3, Box 51, Records of the US Forest Service, Record Group 95 (subsequent citations will read RG95), National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹³ Hanson, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Northern Rocky Mountains,” 110.

¹⁴ Ibid, 240; Otis, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps*, 9, 17-18.

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The CCC existed from 1933 to 1942. On National Forest lands in the West, the CCC primary objective was forest protection that combined fighting fires with preventive measures that included construction of lookout towers and houses, telephone lines, horse and foot trails, truck trails and landing fields. Forest protection also involved disease and pest control. Other work accomplished by the CCC in Region 1 included building construction, range improvements, recreational improvements, flood control, irrigation and drainage, forest culture, erosion control, wildlife enhancement, and other miscellaneous activities.¹⁵

Toward the end of the 1930s, the economy began to improve and CCC enrollment decreased as employment rose elsewhere in the nation. With the approach of World War II, and particularly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, much of the CCC population enlisted or joined the civilian work force. Wartime prosperity changed the climate of the country, and the CCC program no longer fulfilled its original purpose. On June 5, 1942, Congress voted the CCC out of existence and on June 30, 1942, the CCC was terminated.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN MONTANA, 1933-1942

The Fort Missoula District of the Ninth Corps Army area in Missoula, Montana handled all CCC camps in Montana, serving as an enrollment and supply center. At Fort Missoula, the Army's responsibility was to activate Montana CCC companies. Fort Missoula also received numerous CCC companies from eastern states to occupy Forest Service CCC camps, a result of the small Montana enrollment quota.¹⁶

Region 1 (Northern Region) of the Forest Service, headquartered in Missoula, supervised work projects in Montana, North Dakota, northern Idaho and a small section of eastern Washington. Montana had 12 national forests during the CCC period, including the Absaroka, Beaverhead, Bitterroot, Cabinet, Custer, Deerlodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark and Lolo.¹⁷

During the first CCC installment period during the summer and fall of 1933, the army established 22 CCC camps in the National Forests of Montana. Throughout the CCC era, the numbers of CCC National Forest camps in Montana fluctuated between winter camps and summer camps since winter conditions curtailed most work projects. Montana also contained numerous other CCC camps directed by other federal agencies including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Division of Grazing, the Soil Conservation Service and the Biological Survey. Under the direction of the BIA, the CCC program also alleviated the excessive unemployment on Montana reservations.

Western Montana forests benefited tremendously from the almost limitless array of work projects conducted by the CCC work forces. Work on the western forests in Region 1 emphasized fire prevention with the construction of lookouts, telephone lines, horse and foot trails, truck trails and airplane landing fields and actual firefighting. Other CCC work projects concentrated on the control of blister rust in the western white pine forests and the eradication of the pine beetle.¹⁸

¹⁵Fred Morrell to Rutledge Parker, December 10, 1942, Box 4, Folder 17, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; with attached table "Work Accomplished By the Civilian Conservation Camps Allocated to the Forest Service", Montana April 5, 1933 to July 31, 1942.

¹⁶Otis, 17. The arrival of the eastern men caused some contention in Montana with its high unemployment.

¹⁷The work of Bill Sharp is invaluable for anyone studying the CCC in Region 1. He spent years researching the CCC and compiled several indexes from Montana newspapers on the CCC and collected photographs of all camps. Much of his work is located at the Montana Historical Society Research Center, Helena, MT.

¹⁸Evan W. Kelley, March 11, 1936, Box 5, RG 35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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Compared to western forests, eastern National Forest lands received limited attention. The Beartooth District housed a CCC camp along Rock Creek south of Red Lodge, Montana during the first installment period in 1933 but this camp closed in October and never reopened. The Beartooth District waited another six years until the CCC returned to occupy a summer camp from 1939-1941. It required a special appropriation in recognition of the extreme drought conditions in the western states for the establishment of CCC camps in the Ashland District from 1934-35.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS ON THE ASHLAND DISTRICT, 1934-1936

The depression and excessive unemployment compounded by extreme drought in the western United States stimulated President Roosevelt to expand his New Deal programs specifically for drought relief. In early June 1934, he requested over a half million dollars to help relieve the conditions caused by the drought throughout the western states. As part of this appropriation, he asked for an additional \$50,000,000 to alleviate unemployment among young men by the establishment of CCC camps and creation of work projects in the drought stricken areas.¹⁹

Passed by Congress and signed by President Roosevelt on June 19, 1934, the bill called for the enrollment of an additional 50,000 men into the CCC program from drought relief states. Beginning in July 1934, a total of 172 drought camps had been established that included 32 Forest Service camps. Three Forest Service drought relief CCC camps in Montana distributed the Montana enrollment quota of 623 men for the Montana camps.²⁰

The depression in Montana, exasperated by severe drought as in most western states, saw depressed farm prices and reduction of mining and other extractive industries. Montana had an income decline of over 50% from 1929 to 1932. By February 1935, almost one in every four households in Montana was on relief with unemployment being the primary cause for need for relief.²¹

Eastern Montana experienced severe drought conditions during the 1930s. Between 1930 and 1936, precipitation averaged 9.5 inches or 66% of normal annual moisture. The year 1932 received average or slightly above average rainfall but during 1931, 1934 and 1936, precipitation was eight inches or less and fell mostly outside the growing season.²² The Ashland District, located within Rosebud and Powder River Counties, fell within the western edge of the identified emergency drought region. The severe conditions forced many ranchers to sell their cattle to government programs and leave the country. Others who stayed remember the 1930s for three things: drought, grasshoppers and Mormon crickets.

Margaret Bales, who lived at Bear Creek south of the Ashland District, recalls those hard years.

The dry years of the early thirties turned into the drought of 1934. From June 1933 we saw no moisture until late in August in 1934 and very little then. Not only were we plagued by dry weather, but we had hoards of grasshoppers to eat what little vegetation there was By mid summer most of the grass was gone

¹⁹ *New York Times*, June 10, 1934, 1, 24.

²⁰ Emergency Conservation Work. *Report of the Director of Emergency Conservation Work Embracing Activities from April 5, 1933, Through June 30, 1935*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office (GPO), 1935), 57.

²¹ Carl F. Kraenzel and Ruth B. McIntosh, "The Relief Problem In Montana," *Montana Experiment Station Bulletin 343* (June 1937): 7-12.

²² "History of the Custer National Forest," no author, circa 1946, Forest Supervisor's Office, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT, 62-63. Favorable conditions returned beginning in 1937.

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1935 was an average year as far as moisture went, but we still had the grasshoppers, Then 1936!
Dryer than 1934 if that was possible! Now we had Mormon crickets as well as grasshoppers.
Canabalistic [sic] insects that traveled in bands²³

Being the easternmost forest in Montana and located in counties classified within the emergency drought area, the Ashland District of Custer National Forest was an obvious choice for drought relief camps. At the end of June 1934, the Regional Office notified the Custer National Forest that two out of three Montana drought relief camps would be located on the Ashland District. The Regional Office located one along Otter Creek, designated Otter Creek Camp DF-54 and the second near the Whitetail divide with designation Whitetail Camp DF-65. Custer National Forest also obtained a third drought relief camp at Camp Crook (DF-63) in South Dakota.²⁴

After the selection of camp locations, the Army controlled camp organization and construction. The Ashland camps were standard 200-man companies similar to other CCC camps. The Army followed its standard procedures and sent an advanced party to begin the preparation of the new camps. In the last weeks of July 1934, CCC enrollees and LEM's left the town of Forysth, the closest railway on the Yellowstone River, to erect the new drought relief camps on the Ashland District. Lieutenant Herbert R. Archibald led enrollees of Company 1962 to the Whitetail Camp and Lieutenant Emil E. Brinkman led the Company 1961 men to the Otter Creek Camp.²⁵

After an approximate 80 mile trip by truck to the new camp locations, "over night a young city of tents sprung up" at the Otter Creek Camp.²⁶ The Otter Creek CCC Camp was located at the site of the former Twenty-Mile Ranger Station and therefore was interchangeably called the Twenty-Mile CCC Camp. The first week at camp was "spent making camp and getting everything in shape for the winter. The meat house, the root house, and the cess pool were started. Temporary latrines, garbage pits and incinerators were also built."²⁷ The conditions were less than perfect because "it was hot and dusty and windy! Dirt was blown into the food and beds and clothes."²⁸

The first week at the Whitetail CCC Camp, situated near the Whitetail Ranger Station, was also spent in camp construction where the Army established temporary living quarters that consisted of four rows of tents with eight tents to a row. Joe Lovec remembers his arrival at the Whitetail camp.

And we rode in the back end of a truck from Ekalaka up to Volberg to get in there. When we got there there was no camp or anything, they just gave us a straw tick and we went down to the

²³ Powder River Extension Homemakers Council, *Echoing Footsteps A History of Powder River County*, (Butte, MT: Ashton Printing & Engraving Company, 1967), 181.

²⁴ L. C. Stockdale to W. J. Derrick, June 30, 1934, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. The DF designation stood for Drought Forest camp. The Camp Crook Camp was relinquished to the Custer National Forest from Region 2 (Denver) and its camp number also changed from DF-63 to DF-19. The Forest Service located the third Montana drought relief on the Gallatin River on the Gallatin National Forest.

²⁵ *Forysth Independent*, July 26, 1934, 1. It is unclear how many enrollees traveled to the camp in the advanced unit. The *Forysth Independent* reports there were 50 enrollees and 50 LEM's. Company 1961 newsletter reports there were a total of 40 who left Forysth for the Otter Creek CCC Camp. Company 1962 newsletter indicates that only 13 enrollees and 16 LEM's arrived at the Whitetail CCC Camp. Available information on the Otter Creek CCC Camp was generally more abundant than for the Whitetail CCC Camp for unknown reasons.

²⁶ *Forysth Independent*, August 30, 1934, 2.

²⁷ "CCC 1961 Co. Ashland, Mont." newsletter, circa March 1935, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT.

²⁸ *The Green Guidon*, September 1934. *The Green Guidon* was the official Region 1 CCC newsletter.

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straw pile and filled it [tick] with straw for a mattress, put us in a tent and gave us a mess kit.

We had to walk about a quarter of a mile to where they fed us. Had to wash our own dishes and everything. We built the camp up first and then we did other stuff.²⁹

After temporary quarters were established, the Army constructed permanent (fixed) CCC camp buildings on the Ashland District that followed typical Army plans and specifications with a central commons surrounded by buildings. The Otter Creek CCC Camp contained the following buildings at its closure: five barracks, a laundry, an infirmary, several latrines, power house, two garages (one with 12 stalls), mess house, coal shed, water tower, bath house, pump house, officers quarters, oil house and tool house.³⁰ The Whitetail CCC Camp mirrored the design of the Otter Creek Camp with a mess hall, barracks, bathhouse, recreation hall, officers quarters, infirmary and garages.³¹

The introduction of the CCC camps on the Ashland District stimulated the local economy.³² The Army transported much of the lumber and other materials for camp construction from the local towns as Broadus, Forsyth and Miles City. The town of Forsyth benefited from its role as the rail point for the Ashland District camps. During the first few months, the Army hired local carpenters from the outlying areas through county relief agencies to build camp buildings. After the carpenters finished camp construction, the Forest Service often employed the same men or other local residents as skilled workers to act as foremen for various work projects.

Lovell Surgeon, who homesteaded near Sonnette immediately east of the Ashland District, got a job as a blacksmith with the Forest Service to work at the camps after he had to sell his cows during the drought. "Take it from me that was good news." Carl Phillips father, who lived on Taylor Creek during the 1930s, worked for the Forest Service building springs and fences two week on and two weeks off. Besides employing local men, the Army purchased perishables from local markets and bought eggs and other produce from nearby farmers. The Forest Service also rented horses and equipment from the local ranchers for their work projects.³³

Most of the men at the newly established Ashland District CCC camps came from eastern Montana, fulfilling the need to employ local men from the drought-stricken areas. Since each enrollee sent \$25 out of their monthly \$30 to their families, the camps helped the local economy in eastern Montana by this infusion of cash. This contrasted with typical CCC camps in Montana occupied almost completely by companies from eastern states. Smokey Cunningham remembered that "... the ones we had here in these camps, they was awful good workers. Majority of them. Because they was mostly local men from ranches and stuff around ... And they, the kids had all had some experience in working."³⁴

²⁹ Joe Lovec, interview by Donie Philipps, July 21, 1988, Miles City, MT, Oral History Interview 1126, Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, MT.

³⁰ Civilian Conservation Corps, "Report on Disposition of C.C.C. Camp Buildings and Property," US Forest Service, Camp F-54, Montana, July 21, 1938, Folder 3, Box 9, RG 95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. No such report for the Whitetail CCC camp was located.

³¹ *The Green Guidon*, June 15, 1936.

³² It was surprising that the local newspapers from closest towns (Miles City, Forsyth, Broadus) rarely reported on the CCC camps unless the county relief agency announced an opening for CCC enrollment. The isolated locations of these camps and their distance to any town with a newspaper presumably resulted in the sparse coverage of the CCC camps on the Ashland District.

³³ Powder River Extension Homemakers Council, *Echoing Footsteps A History of Powder River County*, 61; Carl Phillips, interview with Joan L. Brownell, March 25, 2002, Ashland, MT.

³⁴ Cunningham Interview, 59.

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By the beginning of August 1934, company strength at both camps exceeded the standard 200 enrollees but these numbers fluctuated during the camp's existence. Otter Creek CCC Camp enrollment totaled over 200 men (both enrollees and LEM's) during 1934 and averaged between 160 and 170 enrollees during 1935. Whitetail CCC company numbers averaged around 187 from August 1934 to July 1935 and then decreased to below 150 for the remaining months.³⁵

The Army regulated the camps and life undoubtedly followed a basic routine. Work projects occupied the weekdays and weekends were filled with various social activities. When the weather permitted, the Army allowed trips on weekends to the surrounding towns and local dances. Sports kept the enrollees entertained and the Whitetail CCC Camp even built a tennis court. Both camps had baseball and basketball teams that competed with each other.

Winter at these isolated camps undoubtedly was monotonous. At the Whitetail CCC Camp, winter came "on with lots of snow, cold weather and bad roads." Ping pong became a favorite winter past time. "Recreation parties were few and far between" and many went home for Christmas for the first time since arriving at camp. With the spring thaw, "more bad roads, broken down trucks and hard driving" ³⁶

Although the Army always kept some men in camp for miscellaneous camp duties, they soon released men to the Forest Service for work projects. The long distances between the main camps and work projects and the overall isolation of the Ashland District necessitated reliance on spike camps for the successful completion of work projects and these were used extensively until the camps closed. According to Joe Lovec, "most everybody wanted to go out [to the] spike camps because they didn't have roll calls in the morning or make their beds just right or they didn't have any lieutenants or anybody around there to see what you were doing . . . we just had a cook and a forest service boss out there to tell us what to do."³⁷

Almost immediately after the CCC companies arrived on the Ashland District, the Forest Service organized a spike camp at the old Poker Jim Ranger Station. The Poker Jim spike camp sat at the center of the work projects and consisted of a four room ranger station house and six tents. Harley DeLange, who served as cook at the Poker Jim spike camp, remembered crews of 18 to 20 CCC boys at the camp. Jerome Cooksey worked at a small post camp (a sub-camp to the Poker Jim spike camp) where they cut and peeled posts and poles. There were no buildings at his camp where they slept in tents with wood floors, heated by a tent stove. On cold nights the men took turns keeping the fire going and sleeping bags got "as wet as dishrags."³⁸

The Forest Service also operated work projects out of spike camps at Bloom Creek, O'Dell Creek, Taylor Creek, Ashland and numerous small temporary camps. CCC crews also stayed at ranch camps where "some of the boys would build and repair fences for the farmers and ranchers."³⁹

³⁵ USDA Forest Service, Emergency Conservation Work, "Monthly Work Progress Report," August 1934 – January 1936, Microfilm, Box 1-4, RG 35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

³⁶ *The Green Guidon*, June 15, 1936.

³⁷ Lovec Interview.

³⁸ Harley DeLange, interview by Mike Bergstrom, April 10, 2001, Transcript, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT; Jerome Cooksey, interview by Doni Philips, August 5, 1988, Miles City, MT, Oral History Interview 1131, Transcript, Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, MT.

³⁹ "CCC 1961 Co. Ashland, Mont." newsletter; Cunningham Interview.

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Civilian Conservation Corps Projects on the Ashland District

Custer National Forest Supervisor Warren J. Derrick recommended various work projects for the Ashland District CCC camps that included road construction, range improvements, ranger station construction, telephone line construction, post and pole production, timber improvement and other miscellaneous activities. Although the Ashland District CCC camps existed less than 18 months, the CCC work force accomplished an impressive amount of the work originally recommended.

CCC work projects on the Ashland District generally received praise from the Regional Office. As early as October 1934, Inspector J. F. Hamblet reported “a very gratifying picture of the rate of progress and the conformity of ... work to specifications.”⁴⁰ In August 1935, Inspector C. B. Swim “was very favorably impressed with accomplishments from these camps, and the interest taken generally in the work both by the overhead personnel and by the boys. All seemed deeply interested in turning out work of a creditable high standard.” Swim felt that the work projects

show up exceeding well – Work has been done in a workman like manner and specifications for the jobs have been carefully followed. I can freely state that every project visited both completed and underway, that, work was done in a workman like and creditable manner, no evidences of slipshod work any place.⁴¹

Roads

Forest Service roads, more commonly referred to as truck trails, primarily existed for fire control prior to the introduction of the CCC program. Early roads, small and utilitarian, followed the most accessible route if possible and the path of least resistance along early trails. According to Fred Thieme, a former Region 1 engineer, road construction throughout most of the 1920s generally began

... by first building a horse trail with pick and shovel, followed by a heavy draft horse pulling a two-way plow. This was widened by a horse-drawn Martin ditcher, which provided width for a small tractor (Beast and Holt, later to become Caterpillar) pulling a small grader. After repeated passes, a roadbed was constructed.⁴²

Under the direction of Evan W. Kelley, who became Regional Forester for Region 1 in 1927, truck trail construction consisted of low class, low-cost fire control roads, reducing the former emphasis on trail building for fire suppression. These minor roads were built on low standards and required limited engineering. They were narrow single-track roads often with steep grades.⁴³

⁴⁰ C. E. Hamblet, “Memorandum of Inspection,” October 23, 1934, Folder 9, Box 18, RG 95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁴¹ C. B. Swim, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Otter Creek Camp F-54, August 29, 1935, Folder 9, Box 18, RG 95, National Archive-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. The praise received by the Ashland District CCC camps resulted in part from the work force consisting of local eastern Montana boys and men, who had a familiarity and affinity with the area.

⁴² USDA Forest Service, “*The History of Engineering in the Forest Service (A Compilation of History and Memoirs, 1905-1989)*, (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1990), 24, 198-223.

⁴³ Ibid, 24. There are numerous stories about Evan Kelley and his strict allowable standards for forest roads in the Engineering History.

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In the early 1930s, Region 1 engineers recognized two types of truck trails. Fire-control roads were “built primarily for fire control over which there is no good reason for public travel or utility travel in heavy volume.” Dual-purpose roads were “built primarily for fire control but which in addition, on account of their location and general nature, will involve fairly heavy to heavy utility use which will be difficult to control.”⁴⁴ Truck Trail handbooks written by regional engineers provided instructions and specifications for truck trails constructed for the primary purpose of fire control at a minimum cost. By 1934, Region 1 had already revised its Truck Trail handbook to detail all aspects of truck trail construction including standard plans to be followed.

The creation of the CCC in 1933 greatly expanded the engineering programs on all National Forests, employing hundreds of engineers to design and supervise construction of a multitude of projects as road construction, bridges, buildings, etc. The CCC presence on National Forests in the West also corresponded with a rethinking of truck trail standards for location, design and construction. By the end of 1933, the Forest Service Region 1 came to recognize five types of truck trails: low standard, medium standard, special medium standard, medium high standard, and high standard instead of the original two types.⁴⁵

Low standard roads (Class 1) were short single-track dirt roads where minimum public travel occurred. Medium standard (Class 2) roads were moderately used single-track dirt roads over five miles and used to a limited extent. Special medium standard (Class 3) roads served as the main access routes on the forest and utilized for “inter-community and inter-homestead travel” as well as forest utilization and recreation. These roads were single-track dirt roads with turnouts to allow for two-way traffic. Medium high (Class 4) standard roads were surfaced single-track roads with turnouts that experienced higher utilization. High standard (Class 5) roads were double-tracked, graveled and similar to farm-to-market roads of the state highway system.⁴⁶

Ed Trueworthy, who served as a road locator at the Ashland District CCC camps, explained the importance of truck trails in isolated areas like the Ashland District:

For the most part, the construction of truck trails in and adjacent to the National forests which are built by the Forest Service for the reason that they are primarily for use in managing Forest property, including utilization of Forest products, and for the transportation of fire control forces. They also make accessible the Forest areas suitable for recreation, such as camping, hunting and fishing.⁴⁷

Road construction generally followed a similar pattern. The District Ranger determined the location of the road. The road locator selected the most economical route by following the contours and avoiding cuts and fills if possible. The locator generally surveyed with an Abney level and compass. The invention of the bulldozer (often called a trail builder), which coincided with the inauguration of CCC programs, greatly influenced road design and construction.

⁴⁴ USDA Forest Service Region 1, “Instructions for Construction of Truck Trails Region One 1934,” Revised April 1934, 1, Folder 3, Box 23, Montana Forestry Division, Record Series 283, Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, MT.

⁴⁵ Ed Trueworthy, “Synopsis of Location, Construction and Maintenance Methods Used on Forest Truck Trails in Region No. 1,” USDA Forest Service, Region 1, July 18, 1936, 2-3, unprocessed collection, Box 145805, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁴⁶ Ibid; each region established their own specifications for road construction. By 1937, a CCC Forestry educational manual identified only three classes of truck trails; low service; medium service and high service, see H. R. Kylie, G.H. Hieronymus and A. G. Hall *CCC Forestry*, USDA Forest Service, (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1937), 251.

⁴⁷ Trueworthy, “Synopsis of Location, Construction and Maintenance Methods,” 1.

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Construction of truck trails supervised by a skilled foreman involved four phases: clearing, excavation, drainage and surfacing. Besides the bulldozer, other equipment used on road projects included graders, rippers (buckets with large steel teeth) and fresnos (scrapers pulled by horses).

While a typical forest crew consisted of approximately 25 men, CCC crews often were larger due to the available labor source. Although engineers stressed the importance of following the prescribed standards of construction, they also recognized the need for flexibility to accommodate for various conditions.⁴⁸

The arrival of the CCC to the Ashland and Beartooth districts brought about an immediate recognition of the potential for road improvements. Forest Supervisor Derrick, upon notification that the Custer National Forest was assigned two CCC camps in the Ashland District, prepared for the opportunity. In his original Master Plan of Work for CCC work projects, he gave

a large amount of time to road projects, including the surfacing of a large mileage of roads already constructed. No place in the State of Montana do the roads become more impassable than they do on and in the vicinity of the Ashland Division during wet weather and it is with the idea of improving conditions of travel that the proposal to surface is made. It is the intention to use scoria shale for this purpose and to put it on to a width of approximately 10 feet and about 6 inches deep.⁴⁹

CCC truck trail construction on the Ashland District concentrated on improvement of the primary transportation corridors in the district. The majority of CCC road projects on the Ashland District constituted reconstruction and betterment of existing, fairly primitive roads along the major drainages to truck trail standards. Smokey Cunningham, a Forest Service foreman, remembered working on the roads.

Oh, yeah, we, the CCC done it. Build them [roads] up and put the culverts in. Put the rocks, build rocks, Hell, we had so many kids that we was having a hard time finding, you had, they had to go out of the Forest Service then. There was only seven or eight of us, see, and we had around over 200 kids. And you'd take a bunch out, like I had 40 of them down there on the road job. And there wasn't a devil of a lot to find them to do unless it was something like that. And they'd haul rocks. They didn't mind it.

We'd put the culvert, lay the culvert in and then they'd do the rock work. And while they was a dozing the dirt in, they'd build, keep the rock up there so they could put more dirt on. . . . it [rock work] was necessary to the culvert because we was short of cover. _____. We could put in a lot shorter culvert if we had that rock wall on both ends of it.⁵⁰

The rock work on road culverts distinguishes the CCC presence on the Ashland District. Whereas the newly constructed or reconstructed roads themselves were standard Forest Service truck trails, the rock work constructed by the CCC work force surpassed road specifications and became a testament to the CCC work projects on the Ashland District. The dry-laid, hand placed rows of readily available local stone on road culverts is today the most recognizable CCC element on the Ashland District.

⁴⁸ Kylie, *CCC Forestry*, 250-264; Trueworthy, "Synopsis of Location, Construction and Maintenance Methods," 3-8.

⁴⁹ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, July 11, 1934, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. Initially road surfacing was not authorized but this policy was altered to allow high standard roads.

⁵⁰ Cunningham Interview, 69-70.

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The Otter Creek CCC Camp worked on the following roads: Tenmile Creek, Fifteenmile Creek, Poker Jim Road, Taylor Creek Road and Bloom Creek Road. The Whitetail CCC Camp worked on the O'Dell Creek, Beaver Creek to Stacey Road and Beaver Creek to Liscom Road on the Ashland District.

Range Improvements (water developments, fencing, cattle guards and corrals)

While road construction was unquestionably the priority for the CCC camps on the Ashland District, Forest Supervisor Derrick felt that "ample provisions for construction and maintenance of range improvements" had been provided in his Master Plan of Work. He later emphasized that CCC work will "carry on the range improvement work such as the building of stock-watering reservoirs, the development of live springs, and the construction and maintenance of fences as originally planned."⁵¹

The effects of the drought in the early 1930s on Ashland District range lands emphasized the importance of range improvement, particularly water developments. Prior to the arrival of the CCC, range improvements received little attention but with the available CCC work force, range work seriously began. The *Billings Gazette* commented that "to conserve existing water and extend new supplies has been one of the dominating factors in the establishment of the two CCC Camps on the Ashland Division. Uniform utilization of the range might be given as the ultimate object."⁵²

A year after the CCC arrived, Derrick applauded the recent government efforts towards range improvements to a local livestock association:

Recently the Government has gone to considerable expense in the construction of range improvements. Numerous reservoirs have been constructed and a great number of springs have been developed, boundary fences have been maintained and new ones constructed. The Ashland Division is too valuable to the community for grazing purposes and the Government has put too much money into grazing improvements to allow the grazing resources to become destroyed thru unwise use of the range.⁵³

Water Developments

CCC work forces on the Ashland District constructed two types of water developments, reservoirs and springs.⁵⁴ Similar to road construction, the CCC work force installed an extensive amount of hand picked and dried-laid rock work for newly developed reservoirs and to a smaller degree springs.

Small reservoirs constructed by Ashland CCC crews generally consisted of an earthen embankment across a dry gulch whose purpose was to catch water for stock watering with a side spillway for runoff. Rock work normally was placed along the dam ends and the spillway.

In the construction of reservoirs, which this Company did a lot of, about the first thing is to locate the coulee where the reservoir will be built. A Fresno is used and they dig the spillway with the

⁵¹ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, July 11, 1934 and August 3, 1934.

⁵² *The Billings Gazette*, October 7, 1934, 1.

⁵³ W. J. Derrick to J. C. Phillips, May 8, 1935, Closed file Home Creek Stock Association, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT.

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fresno and dump the dirt in the coulee for the dam. These dams are fifteen to twenty feet in height and as wide as seventy feet at the bottom and twenty feet at the top. This spillway is rocked on the sides so to prevent the water from washing away the bank.⁵⁵

Jerome Cooksey, who was an enrollee at the Otter Creek CCC Camp, helped build reservoirs with Bert Hagen with a team of horses and a fresno. Smokey Cunningham remembered they [CCC] “hauling a lot of rock on them [the dams], you know. God, there’s millions of tons of rock hauled into them dams. And that was to keep them from washing.”⁵⁶

Springs “are developed by digging out the spring enough so as it can be rocked up to keep the bank from caving in. A lead out pipe is put in to keep the cattle from tramping in the wall. A trough is put up at the end of the pipe to make it easier for the cattle to be watered.”⁵⁷ Datus Chandler, an enrollee at the Otter Creek CCC Camp, worked on springs and remembered that they “cleared all the trash, trees and stuff from around the spring and got it out of the way and . . . you needed it pretty nice.”⁵⁸

According to the *Billing Gazette*, after the spring is located by the ranger:

. . . the crew clears away the mud and digs a pit or trench to serve as a reservoir. When the accumulated mud and debris is cleaned out it usually increases the supply two and three fold. When the crew is assured that the available water will be collected in the pit, it is covered, usually with flat rock and soil and the area protected by a fence. A pipe is then sunk into the trench leading to the pit and a creosoted wooden tank 20 inches high, eight feet in diameter and capable of holding 600 gallons of water is assembled and installed.⁵⁹

The *Forsyth Independent* declared water developments by the CCC camps to be “most important from the stockman’s standpoint.”⁶⁰ The Ashland District, prior to the arrival of the CCC camps, contained at least 45 reservoirs and 150 springs. Forest Supervisor W. J. Derrick recommended the construction of 35 new reservoirs and 100 new springs for the Otter Creek CCC Camp work projects. For the Whitetail CCC Camp work projects, Derrick recommended construction of 26 new reservoirs and 75 new springs. Therefore, the recommended water developments for the entire district totaled 61 reservoirs and 175 springs. The Regional Office approved all of the proposed range developments and suggested fencing reservoirs and introducing stock tanks.⁶¹

In September, the Otter Creek CCC Camp crews began construction of several reservoirs and springs. By mid-October, the camp had completed four reservoirs and developed nine springs. Two of the men in charge of the range improvements were local men, Harry Beam from Horse Creek and Harry Daily from the East Fork of Otter Creek. Reservoir construction crews from the Otter Creek CCC Camp used 15 fresnos, four plows and 38 horse teams.

⁵⁵ “CCC 1961 Co. Ashland, Mont.” newsletter, March 1935.

⁵⁶ Cooksey Interview; Cunningham Interview, 70.

⁵⁷ *The Green Guidon*, March 31, 1935.

⁵⁸ Datus Chandler, interview by Mike Bergstrom, April 3, 2001, Transcript, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Billings, MT.

⁵⁹ *Billings Gazette*, October 7, 1934, 7.

⁶⁰ *Forsyth Independent*, August 23, 1934, 2.

⁶¹ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, July 11, 1934; L.C. Stockdale to W. J. Derrick, July 25, 1934, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Northwest Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. The number of existing range improvements is derived from Derrick’s Master Plan of Work for the Ashland District.

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Reservoir crews averaged 31 men while spring crews required only a foreman and four men.⁶²

By the end of October, the Otter Creek CCC Camp proclaimed they averaged two reservoirs and two spring developments each week. Their water developments to date consisted of two completed reservoirs with four nearly completed and 15 developed springs. By January 1935, numerous springs and 15 reservoirs that averaged “from 1,000 to 3,500 feet of dirt per dam with satisfactory size reservoirs had successfully been completed.”⁶³

Although work on springs slowed during the winter months, the Otter Creek CCC Camp reported a total of 16 reservoirs completed and three repaired by the end of March 1935. They also claimed they had developed 30 springs and repaired seven. By June 1935, Otter Creek CCC Camp range improvement projects occupied three reservoir crews and one spring development crew. Harry Beam at the Bloom Creek spike camp supervised CCC boys at “facing dams and reservoirs with rock.” Crews out of the Poker Jim and Bloom Creek spike camps also worked on spring developments. Water improvement projects continued throughout the summer.⁶⁴

Unfortunately, only limited information is available pertaining to range improvements constructed by the Whitetail CCC Camp. Some of the earliest work of the camp involved cleaning out springs. By late October 1934, a 24-man crew had completed seven reservoirs. The crew originally started with only 20 head of horses but this was increased to 44 horses with eight fresnos and three plows. At the same time, five-man CCC crews successfully developed a total of 16 spring improvements.⁶⁵

Joe Lovec, an enrollee at the Whitetail camp, remembered that they stopped improving springs during the winter. The *Miles City Star* reported in early April 1935 that the Whitetail CCC crews had built 17 reservoirs and completed 31 springs with water troughs. Water development projects presumably continued throughout the summer months. In late August, Inspector C. B. Swim observed two reservoir work projects, the North Elk ridge reservoir and the Shy Creek reservoir by Whitetail CCC Camp crews.⁶⁶

Fences

Prior to the arrival of the CCC camps, fences on the Ashland District extended 200 miles and were all in need of maintenance. Forest Supervisor Derrick recommended construction of 35 miles of new fence and 32 miles of replacement fence for the Otter Creek CCC Camp. For the Whitetail CCC Camp, he recommended 35 miles of new fence.⁶⁷

The Forest Service immediately put fencing crews to work soon after the establishment of the camp. By September 1934, the Otter Creek CCC Camp fencing crews had constructed four miles of fence. By mid-October, they had 7.5 miles of new boundary fence built and 17 miles of old fence maintained. The Whitetail CCC Camp used 27 men to complete

⁶² *The Green Guidon*, September 1934; J. F. Hamblet, “Memorandum of Inspection,” October 23, 1934, Folder 9, Box 18, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁶³ Lovec Interview; *The Green Guidon*, October 27, 1934; W. M. Nagel, “General Inspection Report,” DF-54 Custer National Forest, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives, Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁶⁴ *The Green Guidon*, March 29, 1935; June 14, 1935; August 10, 1935; “CCC 1961 Co Ashland, Mont,” March 1935.

⁶⁵ J. F. Hamblet, “Memorandum to Inspection,” October 23, 1934, Folder 9, Box 18, RG95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁶⁶ Lovec Interview; *Miles City Star*, April 2, 1935, Swim, “General Inspection Report Outline,” August 30, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁶⁷ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, July 11, 1934.

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eight miles of new fence and maintain 25 miles.⁶⁸

By March 1935, an Otter Creek CCC fencing crew had completed nine miles of fence and maintained 29.5 miles. The *Miles City Star* reported in April that the Whitetail CCC Camp had finished 16 miles of fence with 5 1/2 miles under construction. By June, two fencing crews from the Otter Creek CCC Camp were out in the field, one stationed at the Bloom Creek spike camp and another at the Poker Jim spike camp. Both crews remained in the field throughout the summer. In late August, Inspector C. B. Swim observed an Otter Creek CCC fencing crew in the Little and Big Bear country and several fencing crews from the Whitetail CCC Camp working on the Horse Corral pasture fence and the Elk Ridge boundary fence.⁶⁹

Cattle Guards

The Regional Office suggested to the Custer National Forest that auto crossings should be repaired “using old coal mine rails.” The cattle or stock guards installed at various locations on the Ashland District used “. . . small mine rails set 6 inches from center to center The rails cost about \$15 per ton. A half ton (about 20 rails) is required for each guard.”⁷⁰

Both CCC camps constructed numerous cattle guards throughout the Ashland District, presumably associated with road construction. A Whitetail CCC crew reportedly installed cattle guards out of the O’Dell Creek spike camp. In March 1935, the Otter Creek CCC Camp newsletter declared 24 cattle guards

common to this country, have been built by this company. There are two sizes of cattle guards; the eight and ten foot. A hole is dug about two and one half feet deep and about eight feet square or ten feet square depending on the size of the cattle guard. A stringer at each end of the hole supports four stringers which hold the rails. The rails are nailed down with small railroad spikes. A gate is put on one side of the cattle guard to accommodate stock. A slanting “A” frame is built on both sides of the cattle guard to prevent the cattle from jumping across.⁷¹

Corrals

The only corrals known to have been constructed by the Otter Creek CCC Camp were erected at the Twenty Mile Administrative Site (Ranger Station) situated adjacent to the Otter Creek CCC camp. In March 1935, CCC men from the Otter Creek Camp were cutting posts and poles to erect three 100-foot corrals, four 50-foot corrals and one 30-foot corral. By October, the construction of corrals (and also a boundary fence) at the Twenty Mile Ranger Station was in progress.⁷² Presumably they finished the corral before the camp closed. The Ashland District apparently dismantled these corrals sometime after 1958 when the site was abandoned.⁷³

⁶⁸ *The Green Guidon*, September 1934; J. F. Hamblet, “Memorandum of Inspection,” October 23, 1934, Folder 9, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁶⁹ *The Green Guidon*, March 29, 1935, June 14, 1935, August 10, 1935; C. B. Swim, “General Inspection Report Outline,” August 30, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁷⁰ L. C. Stockdale to W. J. Derrick, July 25, 1934, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; W. M. Nagel, “General Inspection Report,” January 10, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, Folder 8, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁷¹ *The Green Guidon*, March 29, 1935.

⁷² *The Green Guidon*, March 29, 1935, October 1, 1935.

⁷³ Site 24PR1565, Twenty Mile Administrative Site, June 1990.

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CCC Telephone Line Construction

In the early 1930s, local ranchers along Otter Creek organized and installed their own telephone line called the “Barbed Wire Telephone Service.” Each rancher apparently was responsible for his own section of the line. The line ran on the top wire of barbed wire fences, used insulators and was strung over gates. When a cow broke through a fence, the telephone was out of order.⁷⁴

Before the arrival of the CCC, the Forest Service operated a telephone line from the Fort Howes Ranger Station to the Bones Brothers Dude Ranch on the East Fork of Hanging Woman Creek.

Rosebud County, when it applied for a CCC camp at Poker Jim Ranger Station, recommended construction of five new miles and the reconstruction of 40 miles of this telephone line from Fort Howes to the Bone Brothers Ranch. Forest Supervisor Derrick recommended the same in his Master Plan of Work for the Ashland District CCC camps. He also recommended the reconstruction of 37 miles of telephone lines to the Whitetail CCC camp. The *Forsyth Independent* felt the “installation of a telephone circuit connecting the various ranger stations and lookout towers” would be a “notable” improvement on the forest.⁷⁵

The CCC work force allowed for the improvement and construction of Forest Service phone lines. Smokey Cunningham recalled building about 100 miles of telephone line from Lame Deer to Ashland to Fort Howes and Whitetail. He acquired the job after the Ashland District Ranger Dave Morrison asked Smokey if he had ever climbed a pole and whether he could take orders. When Smokey answered yes to both:

He said, [the ranger] alright, you’re the boss of that telephone crew then. And he gave me about 50 men. We set poles and dug holes and stretched wire and everything from, we went from Ashland or from Lame Deer to Ashland and then up Otter Creek there, all over the damn country up there.⁷⁶

According to Smokey, the main line he installed was metallic and it hooked up to barbed wire lines that lead up all the side drainages.

By the end of October 1934, the Otter Creek CCC Camp had placed nine miles of telephone poles and had dug 16 miles of post holes for the line to Lame Deer that would provide “wire contact with the outside.” The poles were hauled from Forsyth. The crew reportedly averaged 200 telephone post holes per week.⁷⁷

In mid-November, the Otter Creek CCC telephone crew set a record when 12 men dug eighty-three holes in a day. The crew continued to set up the poles and fill in the holes “in the same rapid manner.”⁷⁸ Thirty men at the Ashland spike camp from the Whitetail CCC Camp worked on the telephone line to the Otter Creek CCC Camp. Over the winter months, work on telephone lines continued for both the Otter Creek and Whitetail CCC Camps.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ *Echoing Footsteps*, 67, 93, 210; Cunningham Interview.

⁷⁵ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, “Master Plan of Work,” July 11, 1934; *Forsyth Independent*, August 23, 1934, 1.

⁷⁶ Cunningham Interview, 5.

⁷⁷ J.F. Hamblet, “Memorandum of Inspection,” October 23, 1934, Folder 9, Box 47, RG95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁷⁸ *The Green Guidon*, October 27, 1934.

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By March 1935, the Otter Creek CCC Camp “hoped to complete” 50 miles of telephone lines. In April, the *Miles City Star* reported that the Whitetail CCC Camp had strung 55 miles of copper telephone wire, with 20 miles completed during the winter months. The camp had also maintained 126 miles of Forest Service ground wire.⁸⁰

A 14-man Whitetail CCC crew moved to the Otter Creek CCC Camp for about four weeks while working on the line from Ashland to Otter. The Otter Creek CCC crew dug the post holes and set the poles followed by the Whitetail crew who strung the wire and placed brackets on the poles. At the same time, another Otter Creek CCC crew worked on the line along Cow Creek to Birney.⁸¹

Forest Products (CCC Post and Pole Production, CCC Timber Stand Improvement)

CCC Post and Pole Production

As part of his fence maintenance program, Forest Supervisor Derrick recommended on his Master Plan of Work that both CCC camps cut, peel and treat 10,000 posts for future use on the Ashland District.⁸² Presumably the post and pole camps followed typical felling and bucking methods. Horses were undoubtedly used for skidding and transporting logs although some trucks were available. The Ashland CCC Camps used the open-tank method of preservation commonly referred to as “dipping” that provided partial treatment used on posts and poles where only the part set in the ground is treated. Treatment plants served a singular function and it is probable that the Forest Service utilized the same treatment plants both before and after the CCC.

The Otter Creek CCC Camp sent crews (called post crews) out quickly from the main camp to begin cutting posts and poles. By September 1934, the crews reportedly had cut and peeled 3,000 posts.⁸³ In early October, the *Billings Gazette* reported post camps on the Ashland District where “green pine posts are cut, peeled and piled for seasoning, later to be immersed in hot creosote.”⁸⁴

By the end of October, Inspector J. F. Hamblet reported that 400 telephone poles and 2000 fence posts had been cut, peeled and decked ready to be treated by the Otter Creek CCC Camp. At the Whitetail CCC Camp, 20 men worked cutting poles and posts.⁸⁵ Joe Lovec, an enrollee of the Whitetail CCC Camp, remembered working at a timber spike camp where they cut and peeled poles to make telephone poles. He also recalled a treatment plant near the Whitetail CCC Camp.⁸⁶

During the winter, a timber crew lived at the Poker Jim spike camp. They worked cutting and peeling poles and posts

⁸⁰ W. M. Nagel, “General Inspection Report,” January 10, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, Folder 8, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁸⁰ *Miles City Daily Star*, April 2, 1935, 2.

⁸¹ “CCC 1961 Co. Ashland, Mont.” newsletter, circa March 1935, Supervisor’s Office, Custer National Forest, Billings, MT; C. B. Swim, “General Inspection Report Outline,” August 30, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁸² W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, “Master Plan of Work,” July 11, 1934; See Fickes, “Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvements” handbook for instructions on the preservation treatment of timber, R-62-72.

⁸³ W. M. Nagel, “General Inspection Report,” January 10, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, Folder 8, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁸³ *The Green Guidon*, September 1934.

⁸⁴ *Billings Gazette*, October 7, 1934, 7.

⁸⁵ J.F. Hamblet, “Memorandum of Inspection,” October 23, 1934 Folder 9, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁸⁶ Lovec Interview.

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north of Poker Jim Butte. Inspector Nagel felt the “boys doing the felling and bucking were working unusually well” and found that seven CCC boys averaged 18 to 19 posts a day.⁸⁷ Harley DeLange, the cook at the Poker Jim spike camp during the winter months, remembered a post camp run by Charlie Richards where they made fence posts and telephone poles and all the work was done by hand saws, axes and bark peelers.”⁸⁸

In March 1935, the Poker Jim post camp counted 7889 posts and 598 telephone poles that had been cut and would be treated for “future maintenance.”⁸⁹ By May, a CCC work force of 15 men operated a treatment camp out of Poker Jim spike camp. By June 1935, the timber treating crew at the Poker Jim spike camp was finishing up work begun the previous winter.

This timber crew cut and peeled fence posts and telephone poles all during the winter. These posts and telephone poles are for use in telephone and fence maintenance on the Ashland. The posts and poles are peeled at the bottom with a draw shave as well as the bark must be removed before the treating material will take effect. When the posts are made ready they are placed in a large creosote vat about six feet by twelve feet. When the vat is full a fire is lighted under it and the creosote brought to a temperature of 250 degrees. This vat is then allowed to cool till the following morning when the temperature is about 100 degrees. Posts and poles remain in the vat a total of twenty-four hours.⁹⁰

This work continued throughout the summer. By the beginning of August, the post crew, under the possible early closure of the Ashland District CCC camps, worked three eight hour shifts each day to finish the work as soon as possible.⁹¹

CCC Timber Stand Improvement

Timber stand improvement is designed to improve timber and aid in growth. While of major importance to the western Montana forests, Forest Supervisor Derrick did not provide for much timber stand improvement work by the CCC in the Ashland District for “this type of work is not nearly as important” on this district. “The demand for timber products on the Ashland Division does not anywhere near equal the amount of timber available, and as a consequence it is not so essential to increase the volume of growth” compared to the eastern part (Sioux District) of the Custer National Forest. Derrick recommended 1250 acres of timber stand improvement for the Whitetail CCC Camp but none for the Otter Creek CCC Camp.⁹²

Stand improvement work at Whitetail CCC Camp was introduced as fill-in winter work when snow conditions slowed other work projects. In mid-March, Inspector C. K. Spaulding found CCC crews had successfully thinned over 175 acres of timber. He realized that stand improvement was a low priority at the Whitetail CCC Camp and received little attention since the open winter allowed most other work projects to proceed.⁹³

⁸⁷ W.M Nagel, “General Inspection Report,” January 10, 1935, Custer Forest, Camp DF-54, Folder 12, Box 18, RG 95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁸⁸ Harley DeLange, interview by Mike Bergstrom, April 10, 2001. Transcript, Supervisor’s Office, Custer National Forest, Billings, MT.

⁸⁹ *The Green Guidon*, March 29, 1935.

⁹⁰ *The Green Guidon*, June 14, 1935.

⁹¹ *The Green Guidon*, May 17, 1935 and August 10, 1935.

⁹² W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, “Master Plan of Work,” July 11, 1934.

⁹³ C. K. Spaulding, “Memorandum for Mr. Koch,” March 12, 1935, Folder 7, Box 18, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

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In February 1935, the *Powder River Examiner* briefly mentioned timber thinning by the camps (presumably the Whitetail CCC Camp). Joe Lovec, an enrollee at the Whitetail CCC Camp, remembered trimming timber during the winter months. In April, the *Miles City Star* reported CCC crews were thinning and pruning trees in a 210-acre area and over the winter had already “cleaned up” 400 acres.⁹⁴ Thinning apparently continued throughout the summer as Inspector C. B. Swim inspected some Whitetail CCC crews thinning blocks of timber at the end of August.⁹⁵

CCC Ranger Station Construction

Although not evaluated as part of this MPD, ranger station construction by the CCC did occur on the Ashland District. The following is provided to augment the historical information provided by HRA pertaining to CCC participation in the construction of the Ashland and Fort Howes Ranger Stations.⁹⁶ In 1990, Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) conducted a multi-phase inventory and evaluation of Forest Service-Owned Buildings in Region 1. The administrative facilities of the Ashland District of the Custer National Forest were inventoried and evaluated for their significance and eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. HRA recommended as ineligible both the Ashland and Fort Howes Ranger Stations. In February 1991, the Ashland Ranger Station and its associated buildings were determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Forest Supervisor Derrick recommended on his Master Plan of Work for the Ashland District CCC Camps the construction of the Ashland Ranger Station by the Whitetail CCC Camp and the construction of the Fort Howes Ranger Station by the Otter Creek CCC Camp. The CCC started but did not complete either of the stations.

By January 1935, the Forest Service had established a spike camp at the Ashland Ranger Station site near the town of Ashland west of the forest boundary. In August 1935, Inspector C. B. Swim reported that the Ashland spike camp was in “very good condition” and consisted of 35 men. Swim found the workmanship on the Ashland Ranger Station very good by both the enrollees and skilled workers although he questioned some architectural decisions regarding landscaping and arrangement of buildings. Swim also commented that the Ashland Ranger Station construction probably would not be completed before the possible early closure of the Whitetail CCC Camp.⁹⁷

Construction plans dated October 1935 show an administrative building a residence, a garage and a barn at the Ashland Ranger Station. The buildings situated along the edge of a terrace were reached either by stone steps or a road loop supported by rock retaining walls. Joe Lovec remembered driving a stone boat with a team of horses when he and other CCC men built a rock wall along the road to the Ashland Ranger Station. They had to tear down the wall twice because a “bigshot” told them it was wrong. He also helped to build the dwelling and the ranger station.⁹⁸

HRA reported that the original district office, dwelling and garage/shop were constructed with CCC labor before the closure of the Ashland District CCC camps and the other buildings constructed by the ERA. By the fall of 1938, the Ashland Ranger Station consisted of a dwelling, bunk-warehouse, administrative building, gas and oil house, garage,

⁹⁴ Broadus *Powder River County Examiner*, February 15, 1935, 1; Lovec Interview; *Miles City Daily Star*, April 2, 1935, 2.

⁹⁵ C. B. Swim, “General Inspection Report Outline,” August 30, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁹⁶ Historical Research Associates, “Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places,” 2 vols. Vol 1. Missoula, MT.

⁹⁷ C. B. Swim, “General Inspection Report Outline,” August 30, 1935, Folder 8, Box 47, RG 95, National Archives- Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

⁹⁸ Lovec Interview.

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barn, fence and stone walks.

The Fort Howes Ranger Station is situated near the confluence of First Creek and Otter Creek within the Ashland District. An Otter Creek CCC crew dug a well at the station in late spring, of 1935. An available September 1935 sketch plan for the Fort Howes Ranger Station displayed a nicely landscaped site composed of an administrative building, a residence, a barn, a garage and a stockade along the eastern site boundary. According to the *Green Guidon*, the project involved the construction of a ranger dwelling, administrative building, six-stall garage, warehouse, and barn.⁹⁹

The Otter Creek CCC Camp began excavation of the Fort Howes Ranger Station at the beginning of October 1935. Toward the end of November, the *Forsyth Independent* reported a 20-man crew at work at the Fort Howes Ranger Station.¹⁰⁰ It is unknown how much work the CCC crew completed before the Otter Creek CCC Camp closed at the beginning of January 1936. Most of the work on the Fort Howes Ranger Station was presumably completed by ERA labor by the end of 1938.¹⁰¹

CCC Camp closures on Ashland District

The drought relief camps were originally established on a 12-month basis and therefore authorized from June 1934 to June 1935. Although the camps lost their drought designation, they were continued for the fifth installment period or until the end of September 1935. The CCC camps received another extension for the winter of 1935-1936 but both were discontinued before the winter ended.

The Whitetail CCC Camp officially closed on November 7, 1935. Company 1962 from Whitetail Camp moved to the Nine Mile Camp on the Lolo National Forest in western Montana where it remained until the end of the CCC program. The Otter Creek CCC Camp officially closed on January 11, 1936. Company 1961 from Otter Creek transferred to Bureau of Reclamation Camp BR-30 located at Sidney, Montana on the Yellowstone River where it remained until October 1941.¹⁰² After the closure of these camps, Custer National Forest obtained another CCC camp (F-53) with Company 1999 near Ekalaka, Montana in the spring of 1935. Called Camp Needmore, this camp only operated for one year.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS ON BEARTOOTH DISTRICT - 1933, 1939-1942

During the first installment period of the new CCC program, Fort Missoula established 22 National Forest CCC camps in Region 1, plus one state forest camp, in Montana. By April 15, 1933, the Regional Office notified possible camp locations and tentative projects to Region 1 forest supervisors. While CCC camps filled the western Montana forests, the Custer National Forest in southcentral Montana received one camp, located southwest of Red Lodge, Montana.¹⁰³

The Army followed its standard procedures in the organization and construction of the new camp. On June 6, 1933, the advanced team of CCC Company 1223 from Patterson, New Jersey arrived in Red Lodge, Montana. These men, consisting of 23 enrollees and three non-commissioned officers, joined with 25 LEM's from surrounding counties to

⁹⁹ *The Green Guidon*, October 1, 1935.

¹⁰⁰ *Forsyth Independent*, November 21, 1935,

¹⁰¹ Site 24RB1564, June 1990.

¹⁰² USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," November 1935 and January 1936; *The Green Guidon*, June 15, 1936, April 1, 1936.

¹⁰³ L. C. Stockdale to Forest Supervisors, April 15, 1933; Elers Koch to Forest Supervisors, April 19, 1933, RG 95, Box 51, Folder 3, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA;

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begin construction of Rock Creek CCC Camp F-11, located on the Main Fork of Rock Creek southwest of Red Lodge. The Beartooth District CCC Camp was a standard 200-man unit called companies similar to other newly established CCC camps.¹⁰⁴

Construction of the Rock Creek CCC Camp began on June 12, 1933. The Rock Creek CCC Camp, typical of most summer camps erected during 1933, combined wood frame buildings with tent barracks. Buildings constructed included a mess hall and kitchen, shower and bath house and latrine. By July 2, 1933, the Army erected seven 22-man tents and ten six-man tents to complete the camp. All tents had wood floors and Army cots. The camp also had an infirmary.¹⁰⁵

By the end of June, the entire Company 1223 from New Jersey and New York occupied the Rock Creek CCC camp.

That first year was a period of confusion and adjustment, what with Forest Service personnel striving to absorb new conceptions of work accomplishments with boys from the streets and alleys of New York and Brooklyn, the reactions of the boys, rudely transplanted hundreds of miles to a new life utterly foreign to anything they had ever known, and the administration of these boys by Army personnel. No wonder there was confusion when all these elements were suddenly thrown together.¹⁰⁶

Company strength at the Rock Creek CCC Camp varied from a high of 217 enrollees to about 190 men near its closure. The Army regulated the camps and life undoubtedly followed a basic routine during the camp's existence. Recreation for the men included baseball games, boxing, wrestling and volleyball at the camp. Trips to town occurred fairly frequently due to the close proximity of the town of Red Lodge to the camp. Like most camps, the CCC enrollees put on local talent shows and often entertained the local residents. Special events for the enrollees involved a trip to Pryor Mountains ice caves, a drive up the Beartooth Highway under construction and a talk on Montana by Montana historian N. C. Abbot. The mountain location of the camp encouraged hiking and fishing as a popular pastime. The CCC men also received firefighting training and if interested, on-the-job training on machinery.¹⁰⁷

Work projects commenced on June 26, 1933. The original approved work plan for the Rock Creek CCC Camp provided for road and trail construction and campground development. The distances between work projects and the main camp necessitated reliance on the spike camps. The Forest Service quickly established spike camps out of the Rock Creek CCC Camp. Two camps were occupied on the West Fork Rock Creek. A crew at the Nelson Camp worked at various projects, including road construction and post and pole production. The second spike camp at the Rock Creek Ranger Station primarily operated a creosote treatment plant. A third spike camp on the East Rosebud housed a CCC road construction

Evan Kelley, "History of the E. C. W. (R-1) (First Enrollment Period.)," December 1, 1933, Folder ECW Supervision, Box 4, RG95 National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁰⁴ *Picket-Journal*, June 8, 1933, 1; the camp location was adjacent to the Canyon Creek Ranger Station, which is below the mouth of Lake Fork north of the Rock Creek. F stood for Forest camp.

¹⁰⁵ "Evacuated CCC Camp F-11," July 12, 1934. Folder 9, Box 9, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; *The Billings Gazette*, July 2, 1933, 8; see Otis, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps*, 71-81 for a discussion on the types of CCC camps. Unfortunately, no photographs of this camp have yet been located.

¹⁰⁶ Hartley Calkins, March 1944, in USDA Forest Service, *The History of Engineering in the Forest Service (A Compilation of History and Memoirs, 1905-1989)*, (Washington, DC: GPO, 1990), 57.

¹⁰⁷ *The Picket-Journal*, July 30, 1933, 4.

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crew.¹⁰⁸

At the end of July, R. E. Fields, the Forest Superintendent for the Rock Creek CCC Camp, made the following observation, obviously in response to some negative comments about the Eastern company at the CCC camp.

I am gratified to observe the zest and good will which is being shown by the enlisted boys in their work. They are here for business and are manifesting a real interest in their job. Contrary to general opinion they do not seem to regard this as a vacation, nor do they rebel at the work assigned. We invite public inspection of our crews at work any day, for the local quota men and the boys of the New York contingent are co-operating to make our projects a success.¹⁰⁹

Smokey Cunningham, who worked as a mechanic for the Custer National Forest, had a different perspective on the enrollees, “. . . kids out of, right out of Brooklyn, whole outfit And all they wanted to do was fight. And they’d go in and Hell, you could hand them an axe, and they wouldn’t know what the Hell to do . . . they had never seen one. And they’d cut themselves and they do everything just to keep from going, going out and work.”¹¹⁰

Regardless of their inexperience, by October, Superintendent Fields reported the CCC men “came near finishing the broad programs outlined at the beginning last spring.” He felt that the Rock Creek CCC Camp received “high praise for its constructive accomplishments and for its wholesome influence upon the morale of the young men enlisted.” The Rock Creek CCC Camp began to disband at the beginning of October. A group of 88 men who did not re-enlist left on October 5 while 72 re-enlisted men left for a winter camp in Tennessee on October 16. LEM’s were to be assigned to other forests. The camp was not reinstated and the buildings dismantled in 1934 by the Forest Service for salvage for a transient camp outside the forest.¹¹¹

When the CCC left, “a large part of the population of Red Lodge and surrounding community” gathered “to bid farewell The community had made the young New Yorkers a part of many of its social and athletic activities and lasting ties were formed during the four months the boys have been stationed here.”¹¹²

The presence of a CCC camp near Red Lodge stimulated the local economy. During the first month or so, the Army hired local carpenters from the area through county relief agencies to build camp buildings. After the completion of camp construction, the Forest Service often employed the same men as skilled workers who served as foreman for various work projects. The enrollment of LEM’s (local experienced men) helped relieve the unemployment situation of the region. The Army also purchased perishable items locally. The frequent visits to town by the CCC enrollees added another economic benefit for the local businessmen.

Red Lodge businessmen realized the importance the recreational developments built by the CCC toward attracting tourists to their area. After the closure of the Rock Creek Camp in the fall of 1933, the community lobbied extensively

¹⁰⁸ Evan Kelley, “Memorandum to Accompany Tabulation A,” “Tabulation A,” July 29, 1933, Folder 7, Box 50, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁰⁹ *Picket-Journal*, July 30, 1933, 4.

¹¹⁰ Emmett “Smokey” Cunningham, interview by Mike Ryan, March 24, 1984, Buffalo, WY.

¹¹¹ *Picket-Journal*, October 12, 1933, 1; USDA Forest Service, “Emergency Conservation Work Monthly Work Progress Report,” November 1, 1933, Microfilm, Roll 3, Box 1, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C; Evan W. Kelley to The Forester, October 2, 1934, Folder 3, Box 9, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹¹² *The Picket-Journal*, October 19, 1933, 5.

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over the years for the reintroduction of a CCC camp near their town. The establishment of summer CCC camps on the Beartooth District of the Custer National Forest resulted from the efforts of the local businessmen and the perseverance of the Forest Supervisor Warren J. Derrick. In November 1937, businessmen and citizens of Red Lodge and vicinity sent a petition to the Forest Supervisor Derrick requesting the establishment of a CCC Camp at Red Lodge.

The present campgrounds were inadequate to care for the tourists and campers the past tourist season and we are assured of a larger number of tourist next season and we feel confident that the number of tourists will increase each year. Consequently we believe that the establishment of a "CCC" Camp near Red Lodge will be to the advantage of and provide accommodations for tourists and recreationists [sic] from all parts of the United States.¹¹³

Derrick supported their efforts. He submitted a work plan to the Regional Office for a potential CCC camp on the Rock Creek District that recommended road and campground developments. Derrick informed the Regional Office that he had "been staving off the people of Red Lodge and vicinity in the matter of placing a camp in that vicinity, but the pressure is becoming so great that I think it should be given recognition at this time."¹¹⁴

Although these efforts failed due to the instability of the CCC program at that time, Red Lodge businessmen launched renewed efforts towards a CCC camp the following spring in 1938. They seriously lobbied the Montana Congressional delegation to have a new camp established. By May, Regional Forester Evan W. Kelley, undoubtedly reacting to political pressure, responded favorably to their request for a CCC camp. "We are therefore in a position to whole-heartedly support the efforts of the people of Red Lodge and vicinity, in their efforts to have a CCC camp established in that territory." The camp, however, could not be established until the following spring 1939 and then would only be a summer camp.¹¹⁵

The newly-promised CCC camp on the Beartooth District was originally to be located on East Rosebud Creek since the most significant recommended project for the Beartooth District called for the construction of the East Rosebud Road. However, the dynamics changed after the Regional Office abandoned plans for the East Rosebud road construction. This reduced the amount of work in the drainage to less than 50% making it impractical for a camp location. Therefore, Forest Supervisor Derrick moved the camp location to be closer to majority of work projects for the Beartooth District. With Army approval, the new camp location chosen was at Willow Creek, a tributary of the West Fork of Rock Creek, only a few miles west of the town of Red Lodge. This summer camp was designated Palisades CCC Camp F-80.¹¹⁶

The advanced CCC Company 297 team arrived in Red Lodge on May 24, 1939 and the next day began to erect the new Palisades CCC Camp F-80. The remainder of Company 297 came on June 16, 1939 from a winter camp on Lolo Creek in western Montana. Men from New Jersey and New York formed the company. Company strength at the camp averaged around 175, with the exception in August 1939 when there was a full company of 200 enrollees.¹¹⁷

¹¹³ "Petition," to W. J. Derrick, November 19, 1937, Folder 4, Box 36, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹¹⁴ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, December 1, 1937, Folder 4, Box 36, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹¹⁵ Edgar W. Allen to W. J. Derrick, April 1, 1938; Edgar W. Allen to Burton K. Wheeler, April 26, 1938; Evan W. Kelly to W. J. Derrick, May 16, 1938, Folder 5, Box 37, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹¹⁶ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, April 19, 1939, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹¹⁷ Civilian Conservation Corps USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," Custer National Forest F-80, June 30, 1939, Microfilm, Roll 51, Box 15, RG35, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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The *Carbon County News* announced that a

Northern Pacific special train brought 200 CCC boys from points in the eastern part of the United States to Red Lodge early Friday morning. A new camp has been established on Willow Creek . . . The work of the boys in the camp here will consist of building trails, clearing underbrush from forests, road work, and in general, most types of work carried on by that project throughout the state.¹¹⁸

The Army erected Palisades CCC Camp F-80 as a combination portable and tent camp, similar to summer CCC camps. Portable buildings became the standard CCC building type by 1937. The portable building materials for the Palisades CCC Camp were shipped by train to Red Lodge from Spokane, Washington. When completed, Palisades CCC Camp contained the following buildings: Mess hall, enrollee latrine, enrollee bath house, officer latrine, officer washroom, generator house, three garages, a generator house and a storage house. The enrollees were housed in 33 pyramidal tents at the main camp. Ten wall tents plus four storage tents completed the camp.¹¹⁹

Work projects started on June 19, 1939. The number of CCC men on the work force fluctuated with the highest number of 162 out in the field in August. The approved work plan for Palisades CCC Camp consisted of seven miles of road maintenance, and the reconstruction of most of the campgrounds that had been developed by the CCC in 1933. The plan also called for the construction or reconstruction of numerous trails, building construction and ski run development.¹²⁰

Near the end of June, the *Red Lodge Picket-Journal* reported that 110 enrollees had been dispersed “to various public campgrounds in the Beartooth areas of the forest, where a program of construction and reconstruction is now taking place.” Work on the Main and West Fork of Rock Creek would include “building of tables, fireplaces, preparing wood, clearing brush, and making trails.”¹²¹

However, all enrollees were not satisfied with the working conditions. In August 1939, a majority of the enrollees signed a petition “for improvements of working condition.” Their demands were as follows:

- (1) canvas covers for trucks in bad weather;
- (2) foreman allow men to take shelter in inclement weather and not be required to keep working;
- (3) enrollees be allowed to make safety suggestions without fear of reprimand;
- (4) adequate time be allowed for washing and dressing before dinner;
- (5) foreman to control language when speaking to men.

¹¹⁸ *Carbon County News*, June 23, 1929, 4.

¹¹⁹ Regional CCC Officer, “Memorandum for Custer and Lolo Forests,” May 11, 1939; “Property Left at Camp F-80 for Turnover to Technical Agency,” October 15, 1939, Folder 4, Box 9, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. For a discussion of the three different CCC camp types, see Otis, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-1942*, Chapter 12, 71-81.

¹²⁰ Civilian Conservation Corps USDA Forest Service, “Monthly Work Progress Report,” Custer National Forest F-80, June 30, 1939, Microfilm, Roll 51, Box 15, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Custer National Forest, Master Plan of Work for the 13th Enrollment Period,” Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹²¹ *Picket-Journal*, June 27, 1939, 5. Unfortunately, the local newspapers made no further mention of the camp or work projects until it disbanded in October.

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An investigation followed and found most of the demands without merit. However, the investigating officer found the work program was too scattered and should be revised. This became a reoccurring problem for the Palisades CCC Camp where too many projects limited the amount of work accomplished.¹²²

In August, Inspector Frank Akridge conducted a three-day inspection of Palisades CCC Camp. Akridge also inspected the only spike camp, located on the East Rosebud, where CCC crews worked on the East Rosebud trail and reconstruction of the East Rosebud Road. The specific work projects underway at the time of the inspection included campground improvements, creosote treatment plant, road and trail work, ski run construction and a suspension bridge at the Lions' Camp. The total number of enrollees engaged at the various work sites totaled 157. Although enrollee numbers undoubtedly changed constantly, so many work projects indicates constant activity at the Palisades CCC camp. Inspector Akridge, who had a fairly critical eye, found poor workmanship in the building of latrines, problems with campground development (both attributed to an incompetent foreman) and numerous minor deviations.¹²³

By September 1939, the Forest Service reduced the number of work projects and concentrated final efforts on campground developments. When the camp closed in mid-October, the final monthly camp progress report revealed the completion of numerous associated campground development facilities and features including latrines, waste pits, tables and benches, camp stoves and fireplaces. Also, the CCC work force reportedly completed seven miles of truck trails, one mile of horse trail and other miscellaneous projects.¹²⁴

Palisades CCC Camp work projects ended October 13, 1939 "following a summer of building trails, constructing roads, and fighting fires." Company 297 disbanded and moved to a winter camp at Priest River, Idaho. The Army discontinued Palisades CCC Camp F-80 on October 15, 1939.¹²⁵

On May 21, 1940, *Carbon County News* announced the re-opening of Palisades CCC Camp F-80. Company 1235, a different eastern company than the previous year, arrived from a winter camp in the Kanisksu National Forest in Idaho. The Palisades CCC Camp opened on May 22, 1940 and work projects began two days later. Company strength this year began with 203 and then fluctuated over the summer with the lowest number at 166.¹²⁶

In June 1940, Inspector J. C. Reddoch described the Palisades CCC Camp as "a summer camp and, with exception of mess hall, kitchen, latrine, oil house, and garages, is housed in tents." A gravity feed from the creek provided the camp with water. Tents available for a recreation hall and educational building had yet not been erected due to lack of materials. However, numerous educational opportunities were offered to the CCC enrollees. Some of the nightly (except Sunday) classes and activities organized by the Army included auto mechanics, beginning arithmetic, carpentry, English,

¹²² "Petition CCC Camp F-80 Company 29," August 17, 1939; W. M. Nagel, "Memorandum for Files," September 11, 1939, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹²³ Frank Akridge, "General Inspection Report Outline," Palisades Camp F-80 Custer National Forest, August 24, 1939, RG 95, Box 18, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹²⁴ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, October 10, 1939, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; Civilian Conservation Corps USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," Custer National Forest F-80, October 16, 1939, Microfilm, Roll 51, Box 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C. The number of miles for trail construction seems too low since the CCC crews were working on two trails.

¹²⁵ *Carbon County News*, October 13, 1939, 1; Civilian Conservation Corps USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," Custer National Forest F-80, October 16, 1939, Microfilm, Roll 51, Box 15, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹²⁶ *Carbon County News*, May 21, 1940, 1; Federal Security Agency Civilian Conservation Corps USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," Custer National Forest F-80, June 1, 1940, Microfilm, Roll 61, Box 16, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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forestry and even reading for illiterates.¹²⁷

Since the camp apparently was in good condition, the Army released CCC men to the Forest Service for work projects almost immediately upon their arrival. CCC crews continued work projects begun the previous year including campground improvements and road work. Forest Supervisor Derrick generalized on the oncoming CCC work season.

Principal project of the boys assigned to the Palisades camp will be the development of about 70 acres of public camp grounds along the various streams, and creeks in the forest, and more than 100 boys have been assigned to a building program at the Billings Lions camp

From May through September, this camp will do maintenance work on over 30 miles of road, reconstruct a mile of road near East Rosebud Lake and a fourth of a mile on the west fork of Rock Creek.

Of interest to fisherman will be the project to construct artificial obstructions to the natural flow of Rock Creek at various points where it appears a need for fish resting grounds¹²⁸

The work plan for the Palisades CCC Camp, revised numerous times, listed the Lions' Camp construction, campground improvements and road construction as work priorities. The work force for these projects totaled 129 at the time of the inspection. An early June inspection found some problems with foremen and supervision of enrollees plus numerous minor deviations.¹²⁹

Palisades CCC Camp stopped all work projects on October 17, and closed on October 20, 1940. Presumably the company returned to a winter camp in Idaho. The final progress report for Palisades CCC Camp indicated the concentrated work effort on the Lions' Camp, where the special engineering force constructed eight buildings and some other buildings at unidentified locations. Other projects completed by the CCC work force involved one mile of truck trail and four landscaped acres in campgrounds. Some man-days were spent on firefighting, fire suppression and warehousing.¹³⁰

By the end of March 1941, Palisades CCC Camp F-80 had been approved for another summer season. The advance company arrived at the Palisades CCC Camp on May 27 and the main body on June 5, 1941. Company 1586, the new occupants, came from the Squaw Creek CCC Camp F-57 on the Gallatin National Forest. Under Custer National Forest supervision, a detachment from this company occupied a spike camp on the Boulder River, south of Big Timber on the Absaroka National Forest.¹³¹ As a result, this company was never at full strength at the Palisades CCC Camp and by the beginning of September had only 121 enrollees.

¹²⁷ J. C. Reddoch, "Camp Inspection Report," Camp F-80 Palisades, Company 1235, June 13, 1940, Folder: Montana F-80 Red Lodge, Box 129, RG95, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹²⁸ *Picket-Journal*, June 4, 1940, 1; the final revised version of the Master Plan was not available, "Master Plan of Work for the 15th Enrollment Period," Custer National Forest, Palisades F-80, June 24, 1940, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹²⁹ C. E. Brackett, "General Inspection Report," July 10, 1940, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹³⁰ Federal Security Agency Civilian Conservation Corps, USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," Custer National Forest, Palisades Camp F-80, October 20, 1940, Microfilm, Roll 64, Box 16, RG35, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. Warehousing is the movement of materials and equipment.

¹³¹ W. M. Nagel to Forest Supervisors and State Foresters, March 29, 1941, Folder 19, Box 22, Montana Forestry Division, Record Series 283 (cited hereafter as RS283), Montana State Historical Society Archives, Helena, MT.

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Presumably the camp organization did not differ from the previous year and consisted of tents and 12 buildings. The camp in 1941 had a fairly extensive education program, both academic and vocational. Transportation was provided each Sunday for church services in Red Lodge and a chaplain came to camp twice a month. A trip to Red Lodge once a week also varied the routine.¹³²

Work projects started on June 3, 1941. The Master Plan of Work identified the St. Vincent's Orthopedic Hospital Camp as the first priority (after fire training), then construction at Vista Point on the Beartooth Highway, sign construction and installation and further work at the Lions Camp. Other proposed work projects in order of importance included construction of Lake Fork Creek road, developments at Parkside, Sheridan, Buena Vista and Ratine campgrounds, ski run construction and stream improvement. Work on the East Rosebud Trail was later added as a work project.¹³³

Some of the work projects noted in an early July inspection included the St. Vincent's Orthopedic Camp wading pool, Lions' camp incinerator, road construction and some sign post construction. Inspector Seth Jackson identified other work projects including campground developments, the Vista Point construction, sign erection and the treatment plant. He also inspected the Boulder River spike camp where a 29-man crew worked on the reconstruction and maintenance of the Boulder River Road and Aspen and Falls Creek campgrounds development.¹³⁴

Inspector Jackson recommended that work projects be completed before starting other projects, again indicating too many projects had been undertaken by the Forest Service. Regional Forester Kelley, upon reviewing this report, praised the camp, for "it seems to be exceptionally well organized and functioning in excellent manner."¹³⁵

The Palisades CCC Camp completed an assortment of work projects in 1941. The final progress report included three latrines, one lookout tower (presumably Vista Point), one waste disposal system, one wading pool, 11 miles of truck trail, one mile of horse trail, four acres of campground developments, one incinerator and 70 signs constructed. Palisades CCC Camp also reportedly maintained seven miles of truck trail and two acres of campground.¹³⁶

By the beginning of September 1941, conditions at Palisades CCC Camp apparently had begun to deteriorate. CCC Investigator Ernest L. Dugas found the tents, officers quarters, technical quarters, infirmary, bath house and camp area all in unsatisfactory condition. Although attempts were made to correct the situation, early winter weather necessitated closure of the camp several weeks early since it was not adapted to bad weather. The Palisades CCC Camp was completely abandoned on October 13, 1941 and never reopened. The Army eventually transferred the camp to the Forest Service in October 1942.¹³⁷

¹³² Ernest L. Dugas, "Camp Inspection Report," Civilian Conservation Corps Office of the Director, Camp F-80 Palisades, September 8, 1941, Folder: Montana F-80, Box 129, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹³³ Custer National Forest, "Master Plan of Work for the F.Y. 1942," Camp F-80 Palisades, July 7, 1941, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹³⁴ Seth Jackson, "General Inspection Report Outline," Custer National Forest, Palisades Camp F-80, Company 1586, July 12, 1941, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹³⁵ Ibid; Evan W. Kelley to W. J. Derrick, July 19, 1941, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA. There was also a case of meningitis at the Boulder spike camp where an enrollee died in early September.

¹³⁶ Civilian Conservation Corps, USDA Forest Service, "Monthly Work Progress Report," October 2, 1941, Microfilm, Roll 68, Box 17, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C. As with all of the various reports, figures and dates are often contradict each other.

¹³⁷ Charles H. Kanlan to CCC War Department Representative, October 14, 1941, Folder: Montana F-80 Red Lodge, Box 129, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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CCC Work Projects on Beartooth District

Most of the work projects accomplished on the Beartooth District by the CCC pertained to recreational activities on the forest. The acceptance of recreation as a viable forest management concern contrasted with the more traditional ideal of forestry. The Beartooth District had historically received heavy recreational use. Several dude ranches operated in the 1920s on Rock Creek, the West Fork of Rock Creek and the East Rosebud. The importance of recreation to the Beartooth District increased considerably after the completion of the Beartooth Highway in 1936, allowing access between Red Lodge and Cooke City over the magnificent Beartooth Mountains. Forest Supervisor Derrick commented that the town of Red Lodge “has gone recreational in a big way. There is a great demand by the public for recreational developments on the forest.”¹³⁸

In December 1937, Derrick informed the Regional Forester that the “recreational improvements on the Beartooth are considerably below present-day standards and they are also greatly inadequate to meet the demands. Recreational use of this area is increasing rapidly each year and at the present time we are far behind the procession.”¹³⁹ W.W. Wetzel of the Regional Office agreed with Derrick, and knew “of no place in Region more neglected.” He also felt such recreational improvements provided a wonderful opportunity for public relations due to high number of tourists that travel over the Beartooth Highway.¹⁴⁰

CCC work projects on the Beartooth District concentrated on the expansion of recreational opportunities for the general public. Beginning with the first CCC Camp in 1933, campground development became the primary emphasis followed by road construction/reconstruction. The CCC also constructed other lasting facilities to provide greater access to recreation on the Beartooth District.

Campgrounds

While multiple projects occurred on the Beartooth District, all were small-scale compared to the focus of the development of campgrounds in the district. Camping on the Beartooth District has historically been a popular recreational activity. In 1932, the Forest Service introduced the Meinecke campground development plan. This plan called for “extensive rehabilitation of existing campgrounds, closing of old campgrounds, construction of new ones.” The introduction of CCC labor allowed such recreational developments to proceed.¹⁴¹

In April 1933, Region 1 identified campground development as an appropriate work project for the newly introduced CCC program on National Forests and recommended that the forests complete projects from an existing 1931 recreational five-year plan. Other recommendations included “liberal provisions” for clearing and fire line construction, provisions for water development, adequate road spurs, and “the usual types and classes of other camp structures.”¹⁴²

Work projects for the Rock Creek CCC Camp involved extensive construction and rehabilitation of campgrounds. By the

¹³⁸ W. M. Nagel, “Memorandum for Files,” September 11, 1939, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific-Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹³⁹ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, December 1, 1937, Folder 4, Box 36, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁴⁰ W. W. Wetzel, “Memorandum,” March 12, 1938, Folder 6, Box 37, RG95, National Archives-Pacific-Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁴¹ US Department of the Interior National Park Service, Cultural Resources, “Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942,” author, date unknown, 222.

¹⁴² Elers Koch to Forest Supervisors, April 19, 1933, Folder 3, Box 51, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

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end of October 1933, CCC crews had reportedly cleared 74 acres of public campgrounds, built 26 latrines and partially finished seven, and completed 28 waste disposal pits. Other campground efforts included construction of tables, benches, and similar improvements. The CCC also built 500 campground signs.¹⁴³

A 1937 CCC forestry manual explained that campgrounds supply “a recreational demand for the camper who “does not wish for too much exertion.”¹⁴⁴ In December 1937, Forest Supervisor Derrick remarked that the “tables, toilets, and other campground equipment are out of date and some of the campgrounds are so badly trampled up that it becomes necessary to provide for readjustments.”¹⁴⁵ A 1938 Custer National Forest Beartooth District map shows numerous campgrounds scattered along Rock Creek, the West Fork and Lake Fork.

In 1939, with the inauguration of Palisades CCC Camp on the Beartooth District, the work program concentrated “to a large extent on recreational improvements.” Due to the emphasis on recreation, the Custer National Forest requested a recreational engineer and received landscape architectural technician, J. R. Peterson to design campgrounds. The presence of the architectural technician resulted in numerous campground design and improvement plans. Most of the campground developed by the Rock Creek CCC Camp in 1933 were reconstructed by the Palisades CCC Camp work force.¹⁴⁶

The Region strove for “high standards” in campground development during the CCC era. Detailed specifications for campground improvements were prepared in both written and graphic form and according to Forest Supervisor Derrick, unusually complete with respect for details. Weekly meetings with the foreman were held in camp to solve any difficulties that arose during campground construction.¹⁴⁷

After the first summer of campground developments by the CCC’s, Forest Supervisor Derrick envisioned that “all of the campground areas will be equipped with new-type improvements within the next two years, dependent upon the continuation of the CCC program on the Beartooth District to complete all improvements.” By 1941, Inspector Jackson, while recognizing the many good recreational developments constructed by the CCC camp in the past, realized the Beartooth District faced a very heavy job load with small company strength. He recommended the camp “to complete structures already started before beginning new or reconstruction projects.”¹⁴⁸

The CCC worked on the following campgrounds on the Beartooth District: Palisades, Aleewah/Basin, Cascade, Botts Sotts on the West Fork Rock Creek; Sheridan, Ratine, Parkside, Buena Vista and Sunset.

Roads¹⁴⁹

On the Beartooth District, during the first inaugural CCC summer in 1933, “most stress was put on the three highway

¹⁴³ Emergency Conservation Work US Forest Service, “Monthly Work Progress Report,” October 1, 1933, Microfilm, Reel 2, Box 1, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C. The number provided for other campground facilities is questionable as the numbers are written in pencil and nearly illegible.

¹⁴⁴ Kylie, *CCC Forestry*, 284.

¹⁴⁵ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, December 1, 1937, Folder 4, Box 36, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid; many of these plans are available at the Forest Supervisor’s Office, Custer National Forest, Billings, MT.

¹⁴⁷ Henry H. Gurley, “Memorandum for Operation – CCC,” September 6, 1939, Custer National Forest, Camp F-80; W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, October 10, 1939, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific-Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁴⁸ Seth Jackson, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Palisades Camp F-80, July 12, 1941, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific-Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁴⁹ Please refer to the previous discussion on CCC road construction on the Ashland District.

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projects, in the Main fork, West fork and East Rosebud canyons, betterments which have baffled the forest funds in past years and whose completion marks a new era in the recreational usefulness of the Beartooth region.”¹⁵⁰

By 1939 and the reintroduction of a CCC camp on the Beartooth District, road building machinery had revolutionized road construction and permitted higher road standards. Although CCC labor was still used on road construction, it is probable that less rock work was required. The Palisades CCC Camp crews conducted limited road construction, apparently working on only a few roads, including the Lake Fork and East Rosebud Road. In 1941, a spike camp out of the Palisades CCC Camp worked on the Boulder Road, south of Big Timber in the Absaroka National Forest (now part of Gallatin National Forest).

The Beartooth District CCC camps worked on the following roads: Main Fork Rock Creek, West Fork Rock Creek, Lake Fork Rock Creek, and East Rosebud Creek.

CCC Miscellaneous Work Projects

Forest Products

In 1933, an important work project for the Rock Creek CCC Camp was post and pole production, consisting of cutting, peeling and treatment of timber, with work commencing soon after the establishment of the camp. The Camp Nelson spike camp on the West Fork of Rock Creek focused on post and pole production, with the erection of a treatment plant. The CCC crews from Camp Nelson in one month reportedly cut 2,000 fence posts, peeled 1,000 fence posts, and hauled 500 fence posts 10 miles to the creosoting treatment plant at Rock Creek Ranger Station. The crew had also cut timber for a powder house.¹⁵¹

A second spike camp at the Rock Creek Ranger Station on the West Fork ran the creosoting treatment plant where they, in one month, treated 1500 fence posts, three sets of timber for cattle guards, and 300 telephone stubs. The Forest Service ran the treatment plant seven days a week with a rotating crew of seven CCC men. According to the final 1933 progress report for this camp, overall 5200 posts and poles were treated.¹⁵²

In October 1933, the *Picket-Journal* reported on the operation where “more than 6,000 pieces of timber for fence posts, telephone poles, cattle guards and other timber uses were treated at the station southwest of this city.”¹⁵³ Presumably the Beartooth District operated this treatment plant whenever necessary after the Rock Creek CCC Camp closed.

After the newly established Palisades CCC Camp opened in 1939, the CCC began to operate the treatment plant although it was not recommended as a work project in the 1939 work plan. In late August, an inspection report noted a 19-man crew at the creosote treatment plant. There is no mention of the plant during the 1940 season but it apparently opened again by July 1941. No further information pertaining to the treatment plant in association with CCC work projects has been found.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵⁰ *Picket-Journal*, October 12, 1938, 1.

¹⁵¹ Evan W. Kelley, “Memorandum to Accompany Tabulation A,” July 29, 1933, and Region 1 “Tabulation A,” Folder 7, Box 50, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ *Picket-Journal*, October 12, 1933, 1.

¹⁵⁴ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, “Description of Projects to Accompany Master Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 1942 Palisades Camp F-80,” July 7, 1941, RG 95, Box 40, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

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Trails

The CCC worked on two trail systems within the Beartooth District, the East Rosebud Trail and the Maurice Trail. Trails were constructed or reconstructed by the CCC primarily on the Beartooth District due to its historic high recreational use. Trails provide access into the lakes and mountains ranges of the Beartooth District. Trails followed specific specifications developed by the Forest Service during the CCC years and often exhibited stone work that exemplified CCC craftsmanship.

East Rosebud Trail

The East Rosebud Trail traverses the fairly steep slope above the southeast shore of East Rosebud Lake and proceeds westward into the Beartooth Mountains. When the camp was originally planned for location on the East Rosebud, the original 1933 work plan for the Rock Creek CCC Camp recommended the construction of four miles of the East Rosebud Trail. With the move of the camp to Willow Creek (instead of East Rosebud), the East Rosebud Trail was still included as a work project plus an extra three miles of construction as a “filler-in-job.” Eventually the work plan for East Rosebud Trail totaled seven miles.¹⁵⁵

Inspector Akridge inspected Palisades CCC Camp in late August 1939. As part of his inspection, he visited the East Rosebud spike camp and observed a ten-man CCC crew working on the East Rosebud Trail. Blasting had begun on the trail and after Akridge observed blasting on the trail, he found fault with the procedures. The powder was carried about two miles from the mouth of the trail to the work site and then stored under rocks along the trail. Since summer visitors heavily utilized the trail, he suggested that they instead carry powder in a packsack daily and not leave any on the trail. The total number of miles of trail the CCC crew completed before the camp closed for winter remains unknown. Similarly, while the Palisades CCC Camp operated in both 1940 and 1941, it is unknown if they conducted any further work on the East Rosebud Trail.¹⁵⁶

Maurice Creek Trail

The Maurice Creek Trail leaves the Rock Creek drainage near Piney Dell and ascends along the west slope on Mount Maurice. The revised 1939 work plan for Palisades CCC Camp recommended five miles of reconstruction of Maurice Creek Trail. In late August 1939, Inspector Akridge reported that an eight-man CCC crew was assigned to the Maurice Creek Trail work project. The distance of this project from the main camp caused difficulties in the number of work hours for the CCC crew. It appears this is the only time CCC crews worked on the trail. A definitive number of how many miles of trail was actually CCC-constructed remains unknown.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁵ Custer National Forest, “Master Plan of Work for 13th Enrollment Period,” Rosebud Camp F-80, March 23, 1939, “Master Plan of Work for 13th Enrollment Period,” Palisades Camp F-80, no date; “Master Plan of Work for 13th Enrollment Period,” Revised, June 16, 1939; all Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁵⁶ F. M. Akridge, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Custer National Forest Palisades Camp F-80, August 23, 1939, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁵⁷ Custer National Forest, “Master Plan of Work for the 13th Enrollment Period,” Revised June 16, 1939, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; F. M. Akridge, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Custer National Forest Palisades Camp F-80, August 23, 1939, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

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Specialized Projects

Several CCC work projects on the Beartooth District resulted in unique or specialized property type resources that fall outside the scope of this MPD. These work projects include the Lion's Camp, St. Vincent's Orthopedic Hospital Camp, Vista Point, and the Willow Creek Ski area. Although they fall outside the parameters of this MPD, the four projects are discussed below to provide an overview of the CCC work in relation to these types of projects in the Beartooth District.

Lions Camp

By the late 1920s, the Lions Club of Billings constructed a youth camp on the Lake Fork of Rock Creek. No direct evidence was found linking the 1933 Rock Creek CCC Camp with the Lions Camp construction except peripherally by the camp's association with the Lake Fork road construction. Different youth organizations, like Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, utilized the camp during the summer months. By March 1939, the camp reportedly contained a kitchen and mess house and sleeping cabins (tents) for approximately 100 people.

Although a fairly low priority, the later 1939 Palisades CCC Camp work plan originally called for a total reconstruction of the Lions Camp, including a kitchen and mess, sleeping cabins, clubroom/administrative building and the water system. The final approved plan instead only allowed for the construction of a bath house, swimming pool, water system, and latrine, improvements felt necessary by Forest Supervisor Derrick; when completed, these improvements would be managed by the Lions Club. However, according to an August 1939 inspection report, the only work project conducted by the CCC at the Lions Camp was the construction of a suspension bridge, which could not proceed due to lack of funds, although most materials had been acquired. The result was that Forest Supervisor Derrick was "desirous of getting started at an early date with the reconstruction of the Lions' Camp . . ." the next summer (1940).¹⁵⁸

In 1940, Lions Camp construction became the priority for the Palisades CCC Camp. By March 1940, the Engineering Division at the Regional Office was allotted \$15,970 for the fiscal year 1940 for materials, transportation, and payment of skilled labor for Lions Camp construction. Engineering expected to obtain additional allotments in fiscal year 1941 for materials "with the idea of completing this Lion camp project during the present field season."¹⁵⁹

In early June 1940, J. C. Reddoch conducted an inspection of Palisades CCC Camp and found the work on the Lions Camp, although approved, "extremely questionable."

. . . Construction of the camp is wholly financed by the CCC, and when completed will consist of kitchen, mess hall, infirmary, administration building, utility building, and nine cabins. This is a very nice set-up and is an approved project, but I doubt the wisdom of the CCC undertaking projects of this kind. If the CCC starts financing projects sponsored by various civic clubs there will be no end to requests for such work.¹⁶⁰

In July 1940, F. J. Neitzling inspected Palisades CCC Camp and the Lions Camp project. According to Neitzling, the

¹⁵⁸ W. J. Derrick to Dr. F. E. Laing, November 17, 1939, Folder 4, Box 9, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁵⁹ C. S. Webb, "Memorandum for Custer," March 13, 1940, RG 95, Box 40, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁶⁰ J. C. Reddoch, "Camp Inspection Report," and "Supplementary Report Camp F-80," Company 1236-W, Folder: Montana F-80 Red Lodge, Box 129, RG95, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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Regional Office Engineering division “directs and supervises actual construction work.” The Forest Superintendent directed the work of the CCC enrollees after the project engineer designated the job and set up the standards. The superintendent was responsible for the entrance road into the camp while Engineering held all responsibility for construction. Skilled workmen on the job included 18 carpenters, two painters, and a plumber, all of which drained the CCC budget. The project therefore utilized skilled labor, rather than CCC crews, for the actual construction.

At the Lions Camp, ditch digging for a water line occupied 61 CCC enrollees, scattering the men over a nearly one-half mile of ditch where considerable “loafing and soldiering” occurred. Only 25 enrollees assisted the skilled men in the building construction, although apparently only peripherally. Neitzling thought the presence of skilled workman offered an excellent opportunity for enrollees to gain useful skills, if local unions would permit enrollees to serve as carpenter helpers.¹⁶¹

The final progress report in October 1940 for Palisades CCC Camp listed as completed one dwelling, two storage buildings, two latrines and one infirmary plus eight Lodge buildings (sleeping cabins?). Presumably all these buildings were for the Lions Camp.¹⁶²

In January 1941, Forest Supervisor Derrick presented his work plan to the Regional Office with Lions Camp again listed as the priority (after fire training). Work was to include landscaping and improving the grounds and installation of an incinerator. By early July, the incinerator had become a high priority.¹⁶³ In mid-July, an eight-man CCC crew plus a skilled stone mason worked on the incinerator installation. In early September, work on the Lions Camp continued with landscaping, roads, trails, incinerator and rip-rapping stream.¹⁶⁴

The Lions Club today is still operated by the Lions Club of Billings. Most of the original buildings are still extant and the historic property maintains wonderful integrity.

St. Vincent's Orthopedic Camp (24CB1537)

Situated on the West Fork Rock Creek, St. Vincent's Orthopedic Camp provided a summer respite for crippled and handicapped children beginning in the early 1930s. In 1932, a permit issued to St. Vincent's Hospital of Billings gave five acres of land to operate this summer camp. The Rotary Club of Billings sponsored the project and built three cabins and erected tents frames. Eventually the permit was transferred to the Rotary Club. By 1939, the camp was found inadequate for the number of children it served.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶¹ F. J. Neitzling, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Palisades Camp F-80, July 10, 1940, RG 95, Box 18, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁶² Civilian Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, “Monthly Work Progress Report,” Custer National Forest, Camp F-80, Microfilm, Roll 63, Box 16, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Supervisor Office's, of the Custer National Forest has the building blueprints dated 1940.

¹⁶³ Custer National Forest, “Master Plan of Work, January 7, 1941” and “Description of Projects to Accompany Master Plan of Work for the 17th Enrollment Period” and “Master Plan of Work,” July 7, 1941, and “Description of Projects to Accompany Master Plan of Work for Fiscal Year, 1942 Palisades Camp F-80,” Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁶⁴ Seth Jackson, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Custer National Forest, Palisades Camp F-80, Company 1586, July 12, 1941, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; Ernest L. Dugas, “Camp Inspection Report,” Civilian Conservation Corps Office of the Director, Palisades Camp F-80, September 8, 1941, Folder: Montana F-80, Box 129, RG95, National Archives-Washington, D.C.

¹⁶⁵ W. J. Derrick, “Memorandum to Accompany Permit,” July 2, 1942, File: Special Use Permit Rotary Club of Billings, Forest Supervisor's Office, Custer National Forest, Billings, MT.

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Apparently as early as 1936, Rotary Club members approached Robert Fechner, Director of the CCC, towards obtaining CCC assistance at the Orthopedic Camp. The request was found unfeasible for the CCC program primarily because no CCC camp existed in the region at that time. The Rotary then diverted their efforts to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program for funding for a two-story lodge. Sponsors for this project were both the Rotary Club of Billings and the City of Red Lodge. The WPA constructed the lodge and a water system that consisted of 1875 feet of pipeline, concrete intake, and distribution system.¹⁶⁶

It appears that the CCC work force completed whatever tasks the WPA did not. Although District Ranger Warren Akers was kept informed as to the WPA progress at the camp during 1940, it was not until March 1941 that the Palisades CCC Camp became actively involved with the orthopedic camp. Forest Supervisor Derrick recommended the "Orthopedic Hospital Camp for Crippled Children" as his main priority (after fire training). The work project included:

- (a) complete reconstruction of entrance road and construction of service road and parking area including the placing of barrier stubs to prevent cars entering the play grounds.
- (b) construction of wading pool – 17' x 50' concrete structure.
- (c) reconstruction of sewage disposal system – consisting of the laying of tile distribution lines from the present septic tank.

Derrick defended his recommendation since no heavy machinery would be required and most of the materials and supplies for the sewer system and wading pool were already available. During the summer of 1941, the CCC built the wading pool, the sewage distribution system, and the service road.¹⁶⁷

Inspector Jackson visited the Orthopedic Camp work project in July 1941 and reported a ten-man CCC crew at work plus a skilled carpenter. Two months later, a September inspection reported that the construction of roads, trails, sewer system, barriers, and wading pool at the Orthopedic Camp were all completed.¹⁶⁸

The St. Vincent Orthopedic Camp is now the Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp. The two-story lodge built by the WPA burned in 1966. The only remnants of the early camp are three small log cabins and the "jellybean" wading pool.¹⁶⁹

Vista Point (24CB0703)

Vista Point, positioned on a ridge top adjacent to the Beartooth Highway on the last switchback before the road continues southward, provides a spectacular view of the Rock Creek Valley. With the official opening of the Beartooth Highway in 1936, people soon began to stop at this location and take advantage of the natural overlook provided by the ridge top.

Since this area is under Forest Service jurisdiction, the presence of the CCC provided an opportunity to develop this

¹⁶⁶ Ibid; Fred Morrell to Robert Fechner, December 15, 1936, Folder 8, Box 47, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁶⁷ W. J. Derrick, "Description of Projects to Accompany Master Plan of Work for Fiscal Year, 1942 Palisades Camp F-80," July 7, 1941, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁶⁸ Seth Jackson, "General Inspection Report Outline," Custer National Forest, Palisades Camp F-80, Company 1586, July 12, 1941, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; Ernest L. Dugas, "Camp Inspection Report," Civilian Conservation Corps Office of the Director, Palisades Camp F-80, September 8, 1941, Folder: Montana F-80, Box 129, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; K. D. Swan photographs, August 12, 1941, Custer National Forest No. 2340-17, Forest Supervisor's Office, Custer National Forest, Billings, MT.

¹⁶⁹ Site No. 24CB1537. Eligibility remains "undetermined" in the SHPO data base.

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historically well used overlook. The 1941 approved work plan for Palisades CCC Camp identified Vista Point as the third priority. The plan called for construction of two four-hole toilets (since the present capacity was inadequate), construction of 300 feet of trail four feet wide, construction of a stone masonry wall around overlook, installation of a register box, and various signs.¹⁷⁰

Seth Jackson inspected the work at Vista Point at the beginning of July 1941. He recommended that “if man-days are available, CCC and the Forest Service could set a tremendous amount of free advertising by completion of the Vista Point area. I did not notice mention of the Forest Service on any signs or structures there and it would seem logical to take credit for this work which has very heavy public use.”¹⁷¹ By September, CCC inspector Ernest L. Dugas identified CCC work on the “Vista Point Tourist Observation” to include sanitation facilities, trails, and overlook of masonry construction.¹⁷²

In July 1993, Sherri Deaver of Ethnoscience conducted a cultural resource inventory of Vista Point (24CB703). The CCC masonry was obscured by a 1960s concrete viewing platform with only a small portion still visible. The site was considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its association with the Beartooth Highway.¹⁷³

Willow Creek Ski Area

The Willow Creek Ski Area was situated on a northeast-facing slope west of the Willow Creek drainage. In September 1941, the Custer National Forest issued a permit to the Red Lodge Winter Sports Association to operate the Willow Creek ski area. The ski area closed in 1960 with the opening of the Grizzly Peak Ski Run (now Red Lodge Mountain).

The Willow Creek runs were rated among the best hills in the state; however, the little over one-half mile run was not long enough to permit sanctioned races to be held there. Two rope tows with high-powered electric motors furnished power to pull skiers to the top of the run. The run consisted of two cuts, one on the right side of the main tow and one on the left. They were about the same length and both have a vertical drop of from nine hundred to a thousand feet. There was a warming cabin at the foot of the run where food was served, and for fifty cents a person could enjoy a day of skiing.¹⁷⁴

The CCC built the original ski runs at the Willow Creek Ski Area. The 1939 work plan for the Palisades CCC Camp included three miles for ski run development. An August inspection reported a five-man CCC crew working at the ski run development. By the approach of winter in 1939, the CCC crews had cleared timber for a 1000-foot lift and

¹⁷⁰ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, “Master Plan of Work for the F.Y. 1942,” and “Description of Projects to Accompany Master Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 1942 Palisades Camp F-80,” July 7, 1941, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁷¹ Seth Jackson, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Custer National Forest, Palisades Camp F-80, Company 1586, July 12, 1941, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁷² Ernest L. Dugas, “Camp Inspection Report,” Civilian Conservation Corps Office of the Director, Palisades Camp F-80, September 8, 1941, Folder: Montana F-80, Box 129, RG35, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁷³ Sherri Deaver, “Cultural Resource Inventory Beartooth/Rock Creek Vista Unsurveyed Lands Carbon County, MT,” Prepared for Montana Department of Transportation by Ethnoscience, Billings, MT, July 1983. The vista eligibility determination remains “undetermined” in the SHPO data base.

¹⁷⁴ Shirley Zupan and Harry J. Owens, *Red Lodge Saga of a Western Area*, (Billings, MT: Carbon County Historical Society, Frontier Press, 1979), 226.

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apparently developed three runs totaling one mile. Regional Forester Kelley commented that “interest in winter sports is developing rapidly throughout the region and these classes of projects are just getting under way here.”¹⁷⁵

No CCC work project occurred at the ski area in 1940. Forest Supervisor Derrick recommended in his 1941 work plan that consolidating separate runs should open up the lower section of the expert run and the intermediate run should be cleared from top of lift to open slope. He thought it “very desirable to get this work done before use this winter.” No further information pertaining to CCC involvement is known.¹⁷⁶

Apparently the first winter after the runs had been constructed, the Silver Run Ski Club of Billings requested authorization to use the mess hall at Palisades CCC Camp over the winter in association with their operation of the newly constructed ski runs. Forest Supervisor Derrick refused the request based on the possible dangers inherent of losing the CCC camp if he allowed the ski area occupancy. After the CCC program closed in 1942, the Regional Office decided to retain the shop at Palisades Camp F-80 and offered it to the ski club for a “warm-up shelter” if they wanted it. Historic 1950s photographs of the ski area show several buildings standing at the base of the slopes where the Palisades CCC Camp F-80 originally stood.¹⁷⁷

F. Associated Property Types

(Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

The historic context developed for CCC resources on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts allows for the evaluation of properties through the concept of property types. A property type is a “grouping of individual properties based on a set of shared physical or associative characteristics.” Property type analysis “specifies the physical or associative characteristics and the kinds of historic integrity” that a property must retain to qualify for listing in the NRHP.¹⁷⁸

Introduction

This Multiple Property Document examines resources associated with CCC work projects on the Ashland and Beartooth districts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. However, it does not include resources of the largest construction-efforts, such as ranger station construction, or resources associated with specialized projects including the Lions Camp, Vista Point, Willow Creek Ski Area, and St. Vincent’s Orthopedic Camp; these types of projects fall outside the scope of the MPD.

The CCC-project property types identified and included in this MPD include road construction, trail construction, range improvements (further refined into subtypes of water improvements, fences, cattle guards and corrals), telephone lines, forest products (subdivided into post and pole production, and timber treatment), and campgrounds. The Forest Service

¹⁷⁵ Custer National Forest, “Master Plan of Work for the 13th Enrollment Period,” Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; F. M. Akridge, “General Inspection Report Outline,” Palisades Camp F-80, Custer National Forest, August 24, 1939, Folder 13, Box 18, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; Evan W. Kelley to Chief Forest Service, December 22, 1939, Folder 11, Box 15, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁷⁶ W. J. Derrick to Evan W. Kelley, “Description of Projects to Accompany Master Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 1942” Palisades Camp F-80, July 7, 1941, Folder 2, Box 40, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁷⁷ W. J. Derrick to Dr. P. E. Laing, November 17, 1939; E. D. Sandvig to W. J. Derrick, July 22, 1942, Folder 4, Box 9, RG95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA.

¹⁷⁸ U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service, Interagency Resource Division, “National Register Bulletin 16 Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms, September 1986, 8, 10.

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directed all work projects on the National Forests.¹⁷⁹

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, resources associated with CCC work projects on the Ashland and Beartooth districts must be significant under one of four National Register Criteria, A-D; be significant at a local, state, or national level, and possess integrity. While changes to some resources has occurred over time, the properties must be able to convey the historic appearance and character of the project.

Significance:

Criterion A: Under National Register Criterion A, CCC property type resources have significance in their historic association with the CCC projects of the New Deal programs first introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. These New Deal programs helped alleviate the effects of drought and depression by bringing work relief to thousands of the unemployed throughout the nation. CCC resources represent a strong historic association to the contribution of the CCC program to the development and protection of natural resources on National Forests during the New Deal era. The presence of the CCC changed the character of the Ashland and Beartooth districts by the wide variety of work projects undertaken that improved forest multiple-use management from recreation to range.

Under Criterion A, CCC resources may be eligible for listing in the National Register through their association with historic themes. Applicable areas of significance for resources related to CCC work projects include:

Recreation: The CCC work force under Forest Service supervision developed campgrounds that represented the recognition by the Forest Service of the importance of recreation on National Forest. CCC campgrounds, particularly on the Beartooth District, opened recreational opportunities to both Montanans and out-of-state tourists and provided an economic boost to the local communities.

In addition to campgrounds, the CCC opened miles of trails, particularly on the Beartooth District. These trails brought, and continue to bring recreationists. CCC Work holds recreational values in providing new access to forest lands and protection of wildlife habitat.

Politics/Government: Any CCC resource found eligible for listing in the National Register is intricately associated with the “politics/government” area of significance. On March 21, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced to Congress his plan to put “young men to work in the woods.”¹⁸⁰ His plan consisted of three primary goals: to quickly provide for the enrollment of the unemployed by the federal government without interfering with normal employment; to provide relief grants to states; and lastly to develop a broad, labor intensive public works program. Congress responded and passed legislation signed by the president that authorized him to proceed with his work relief plans. On April 5, 1933, Executive Order 6101 established the Emergency Conservation Work program (ECW), commonly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

¹⁷⁹ As previously mentioned in the above historic contexts for the Ashland and Beartooth districts, certain building construction projects, such as administration/ranger station properties, were not evaluated as part of this MPD. Also, specialized projects, like those identified for the Beartooth District, were not designated property types since they do not reflect a grouping of individual properties, being each unique unto themselves.

¹⁸⁰ John A. Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1967), 4. John Salmond is the definitive reference in regard to administration of the CCC program. A study directly pertinent to Montana is James A. Hanson, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Northern Rocky Mountains,” (Ph.D diss., University of Wyoming, 1973). See also Department of Agriculture Forest Service, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-42*. by Alison T. Otis et al. August 1986.

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Different branches of government were used in the implementation of the program. The Department of Labor administered enrollment, utilizing existing local and county relief organizations that conducted the selections. The Labor Department also established acceptance standards and quotas based on state populations. The War Department (Army) mobilized the CCC and had control of the CCC men except during working hours outside the camp. The administration, organization of camps including construction, and provisions and care of men, including conditioning, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, recreation, health and supplies, became the responsibility of the Army. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior directed all work projects. Under the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service conducted and supervised extensive work projects on National Forest lands.

Social History: The passage of Executive Order 6101 establishing the Emergency Conservation Work Program, serves as one of the truest examples of an attempt to promote the welfare of a large segment of society in the history of the United States. The resources associated with this program are a direct result of the government facing a national crisis developing a means to improve the circumstances of millions of individuals by taking unemployed young men and putting them to work throughout the United States and helped families and communities survive during the depression years.

Transportation: CCC resource in the Ashland or Beartooth districts may be found eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places if associated with the "broad pattern" of transportation. These CCC roads gain significance under this theme if they facilitated passage to or through a region or played an important role in the development of an effective transportation system. CCC roads represent investment in the local transportation systems, often providing economic benefit to surrounding communities.

CCC also constructed trails that served both recreational activities and more utilitarian functions including provided the Forest Service with additional routes into the interior for fire-control, and assisting livestock grazers to more easily move cattle to higher elevations.

Agriculture: CCC range improvements have significance for their state and local association with CCC development in Montana and the forest lands in Montana. CCC range improvements represent a strong historic association with the contribution of the CCC program to the development and protection of natural resources on National Forests during the New Deal era. The presence of the CCC on the Ashland District allowed for a program of range improvements during severe drought conditions and helped conservation efforts of range lands. These improvements included fence construction, water improvements (i.e. reservoirs, earthen dams), cattle guards, and corrals.

Communication: CCC-constructed telephone lines represent a strong historic association with the contribution of the CCC program to the development and protection of natural resources on National Forests. The CCC telephone line played an important role in the communications system on the Custer National Forest for both forest service personnel and ranchers and farmers within the district.

Conservation: While CCC range improvements often attempted to meld the landscape in a certain direction for use by the local populations for activities such as agriculture or grazing, the resources they constructed also often served to maintain or protect the natural habitat. CCC work improvements emphasized the protection and use of forest lands. The construction of fences, cattle guards, and corrals were often as much directed toward keeping livestock in, as they were to keeping livestock out of a specific area.

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During their time on the Ashland and Beartooth districts, the CCC also became involved with timber production and improvement, representing a strong historic association with the contribution of the CCC program to the development and protection of natural resources on National Forests. The Forest Service's mission of maintaining the health of the forest by their forest practices easily translated to the newly-available force of CCC workers.

Criterion B: Under Criterion B, CCC resources within the Ashland and Beartooth districts may be eligible for the National Register if a historically significant person's importance directly relates to the resource. Although some of the CCC resources could display specialized techniques of engineering, such as road construction, these resources would be generally found significant under Criterion C. It is unlikely that a CCC work project will have a direct association with the lives of persons significant in our past or that would best represent that person's contribution to history.

Criterion C: A CCC resource may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it embodies the "distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." CCC work projects resulted in a variety of resource property types, such as road and trail construction, range improvements, and campground construction; the resultant resources often illustrate distinctive methods of construction exemplified by the CCC on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts under the auspices of the Forest Service. Applicable areas of significance for this criterion includes engineering.

The design and construction of roads illustrates the importance of CCC-developed infrastructure in the Ashland Ranger District. The construction of roads in the difficult terrain of the forests underscores the understanding of basics engineering principles allowing the roads constructed during this time to continue to serve the nearby populations. In addition, many segments of the CCC-constructed roads required knowledge of masonry for the construction of drainage crossings where required. CCC rock work particularly emerged as a distinctive characteristic defined by dry-laid, hand placed stone masonry of local materials. Under Criterion C, CCC work-related resources on the Ashland and Beartooth districts that utilized rock must retain the distinctive CCC craftsmanship.

Criterion D: Under Criterion D, CCC resources or their remains in the Ashland and Beartooth districts could be eligible for the National Register if they can yield important information about their technology or construction. The information would need to be embodied in the resource itself or its remains; the mere existence, or former existence of a CCC resource at a particular location does not constitute sufficient important information. The information should not be available through other sources, such as historical documents or similar extant resources. It is unlikely that most CCC work projects will have the ability to contribute to historic understanding of the CCC presence on the Ashland and Beartooth districts under Criterion D.

Property Type: CCC Resources Associated with CCC Work Projects

Name of Sub-Type: Roads

Description: This property sub-type includes all roads constructed by the CCC work force on the Ashland District and Beartooth districts.¹⁸¹ Roads constructed by the CCC were Forest Service roads, built under the direction and supervision of the Forest Service. Often, these roads were basically reconstruction of previously existing crude roads along major drainages within the Ashland and Beartooth districts. These minor roads, generally called truck trails, serve a small volume of traffic and allow utilization of forest lands.

¹⁸¹ A more detailed discussion on Forest Service roads is found in a previous section, CCC road construction projects.

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By 1934, five classes of truck trails, each classified according to precise specifications, were identified: low standard, medium standard, special medium standard, medium high standard and high standard. Most CCC-constructed roads fell into the Class 2 or Class 4 categories. Medium standard (Class 2) roads were single-track connecting roads and laterals over five miles in length that measured 10 feet wide, with an 11-foot subgrade, and a 10% maximum grade with moderate allowable curvature. Class 4 roads (medium standard) realized higher utilization and consisted of a single-track, surfaced with a subgrade of 17 feet, a maximum grade of 7%, and wide curvature and turnouts every 500 feet. Initial work entailed survey, followed by clearing, excavation, drainage, and surfacing.

The “Roads” property type includes one very important and often recognizable resource—drainage crossings. Drainages were commonly bridged with the use of culverts. The most common type of culvert was a corrugated metal pipe that could be adjusted to any length with generally a diameter of 40 inches. Extensive rock work characterized CCC installation of culverts. Approaches incorporated dry rock masonry along the side walls and also at the lead-in ditches and around the culvert opening. The roads were built by a combination of men and machines. The necessity to keep the large number of CCC enrollees occupied resulted in the extensive rock work along the roadways.

Registration Requirements

National Register Criterion A: a road on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) is associated with CCC development during the defined period of significance. While a number of roads exist within the Ashland and Beartooth districts, only those roads constructed/reconstructed by the CCC will be considered for listing in the National Register under this MPD.
- 2) is associated with the distribution of goods, materials or people within the Ashland or Beartooth districts during the period of significance. The roads constructed or reconstructed by the CCC continue to be used at present. Especially in the Ashland District, many of the roads are located in rural isolated areas where road upgrades greatly improved the circulation system in the area.

National Register Criterion C: a road, or road feature, on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) generally conforms to the design standards utilized by the CCC during the period of significance. Potentially eligible roads (or segments) need to conform to the standards described in the road “description” above.
- 2) exhibits design features characteristic of CCC construction. While roads display more utilitarian engineering qualities, generally following the standard Forest Service truck trail guidelines, the associated drainage crossings constructed often display impressive rock work, providing a testament to the quality of work by the CCC.

Integrity

In addition to the requirement that a road must meet one of more of the National Register criteria to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register, it must also retain integrity.

Location: CCC roads must retain their original location and convey their original historic appearance and characteristics. Although obvious, the road must remain where constructed to illustrate its original alignment. Although road segments

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might be abandoned or rerouted, there must be extant evidence of the original CCC road alignment.

Design: CCC roads must retain those elements that clearly exhibit distinctive CCC rock work on drainage crossings. Forest Service specifications for drainage crossings called for rock installation where necessary but the manual labor of the CCC crews allowed for the impressive rock work that is synonymous with the presence of the CCC on forest lands. The entire road retains integrity if drainage crossings remain along its length. All rock utilized for the drainage crossing must be from a local source. If drainage crossings along a segment display replacement materials compatible to the original rock work, that segment's integrity would be diminished, but historic design would still be recognizable. Rock work must be from local available materials. However, integrity of design is lost by the introduction of intrusive noncompatible materials.

Individual stand-alone drainage crossings along a road where CCC features have otherwise been obliterated may retain integrity of design if the drainage crossing displays rock masonry that retains the other aspects of integrity.

Setting: The surroundings of CCC work projects should not be compromised and should remain relatively undisturbed. Integrity of setting must be retained to sufficiently convey the historic identity of the CCC road. Although some modern intrusions are inevitable, integrity of setting is lost by the introduction of substantial impacts to the immediate surroundings. The setting should retain an environment representative of its historic period. Because CCC roads in the Ashland and Beartooth Districts occur in remote areas and generally follow drainages in sparsely populated, isolated, agricultural and mountainous forest lands, integrity of setting is usually good. Integrity of setting is compromised by the introduction of a modern road.

Materials: CCC roads should retain the majority of original materials. In addition, drainage crossings should retain those elements that constitute the physical presentation that defined CCC construction, as the metal culvert and rock work. The rock for drainage crossings was collected locally by the CCC crews and placed manually adjacent to the culvert. Original materials enable the road to reflect its historic appearance and character. Modern alterations or replacements to the drainage crossings composed of compatible materials are acceptable if a large percentage of original materials are intact. Integrity of materials is lost if the majority of historic materials have been removed, altered or replaced.

Workmanship: CCC roads must retain the historic evidence of the workmanship of the CCC crews. The extensive rock work performed by the CCC work force illustrates the time and effort of the CCC men.

Association and Feeling: The integrity of association and feeling requires the integrity of the physical qualities of the historic resource, thereby the integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

Name of Property Sub-Type: Range Improvements

Description: This property type includes four subtypes: water improvements, fences, cattle guards and corrals.

Water Improvements

Water improvements consist of reservoir and spring developments. Reservoirs are generally constructed where water is scarce and water storage necessary. The water stored behind the dam provides for livestock watering in an area otherwise avoided. Construction of reservoirs helps to protect the range by distributing livestock grazing more evenly over a pasture. The most common form of reservoir is the earthen dam constructed across a suitable coulee or gulch. The earthen dam consists of three basic components: the embankment that includes a core, spillway and reservoir area.

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Earthen dams on the Ashland District are generally less than 20 feet high. Some have a gravel/cement core wall installed in porous soil to prevent seepage. The top width of an earthen dam varies between 7 to 10 feet. In the 1930s, slopes of earthen dams follow the formula of 3:1 upstream and 2:1 downstream.

An important feature of an earthen dam is the spillway, which carries off flood water to prevent overtopping and erosion of the embankment. Earthen dam spillways generally consist of an excavated cut or side channel along the edge of the reservoir. Drainage areas and size of reservoirs are generally small.

Rock work called riprap is generally placed around the end of the dam at the spillway and along the spillway in 1930s earthen dams. Often the spillway is lined with available rock or concrete if available. Local flat rock is collected and laid "shingle" fashion where necessary. Riprap can also be found on the upstream face to protect the slope from wave action. Placement of rock on the downstream side and side walls of the embankment helps to prevent erosion.

Developed springs served as another water source for livestock and were constructed several ways. Springs could be developed by excavating out the spring and then lining the bank to support it from collapse. A pipe extends out from the excavated spring (commonly called a spring box) to a trough or water tank; troughs made of local materials, such as logs or lumber, generally had a rock fill foundation. Water tanks, circular treated lumber tanks, were also placed on a rock fill foundation (or occasionally concrete). Pole fences surrounded the developed spring to keep livestock out.

Fences

Fences regulate the distribution and control of livestock on the forest. Boundary fences prevent trespass and division fences separate ranges to control overgrazing and movement of livestock. Presumably most of the fences built by the CCC were "wire on post" fences, the most "common and widely used fence type which are the simplest to construct." Other fence types include the buck pole and buck wire fences, both developed to withstand heavy snow conditions on eastern forests. The rock buck fence was used where a post could not be driven into the ground.¹⁸²

Cattle guards

CCC constructed cattle guards consisted of a hole dug about 2 ½ feet deep and eight or 10 feet square depending on road width and size of the cattle guard. Four stringers from end to end supported railroad ties. A slanting "A" frame on either side of cattle guard prevented livestock from circumventing the ends of the structure, and a gate next to the cattle guard allowed for passage of livestock when necessary.

Corrals

There were three common types of corrals constructed during the CCC period: the large roundup corral, the smaller working corral, and the branding chute. Poles were the most common type of building material. Corrals generally were at least eight feet high with pole gates.

National Register Criterion A: range improvements on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) is associated with CCC development during the defined period of significance. While numerous range

¹⁸² C. P. Fickes, *Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvements*, USDA Forest Service Region One Handbook, revised December 1935, RM1-2.

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improvements occur within the Ashland and Beartooth districts, only those performed by the CCC will be considered for listing in the National Register under this MPD.

National Register Criterion C: a range improvements on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) has the ability to illustrate distinctive methods of construction exemplified the CCC work force. Certain range improvements, especially water improvements, display their association with the CCC-origins. Water developments (reservoirs and springs), similar to CCC roads, display distinguishing elements that characterize construction practices by CCC crews under the auspices of the Forest Service. The CCC used extensive rock work on reservoirs and to a lesser extent springs on the Ashland District. CCC rock work emerged as a distinctive characteristic of the CCC on water developments, defined by dry-laid, hand placed stone masonry of local materials.

Other range improvements, including fences, cattle guards and corrals, used materials and workmanship common to the region and would not likely be identified specifically with the CCC era. They utilized typical Forest Service construction methods that do not display any distinctive characteristics that characterize construction practices by the CCC work force.

Integrity

Criteria A and C

Location: CCC range improvements must retain their original location to convey their original historic appearance and characteristics.

Design: CCC range improvements must retain those elements that clearly exhibit distinctive CCC characteristics of CCC rock work. This distinctive style is characterized by extensive carefully placed riprap (often in a shingled pattern) on reservoirs water improvements constructed by the CCC work force. Spring developments associated with CCC construction will have dry rock masonry in the spring box, and distinctive rock foundations for water troughs or tanks.

CCC water improvements retain integrity of design if a large percentage of the original rock work is extant. Where riprap has been removed or eroded naturally but a large percentage of the original work is intact, integrity of design is retained. Where riprap has been replaced with compatible, non-intrusive materials and much of the original work remains, integrity of design is also retained.

Setting: The surroundings of CCC work projects should not be compromised and must remain relatively undisturbed. Integrity of setting must be retained to sufficiently convey the historic identity of the CCC range improvement. Although some modern intrusions are inevitable, integrity of setting is lost by the introduction of substantial impacts to the immediate surroundings. The setting should retain an environment representative of its historic period.

Materials: CCC range improvements must retain original materials that constitute the physical elements. Water developments have lost integrity of materials if the majority of historic materials have been removed, altered or replaced. Materials associated with the other range improvements, fences, cattle guards and corrals, are relatively similar today and did not have characteristics unique to CCC construction.

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Workmanship: CCC range improvements must retain the historic evidence of the workmanship of the CCC crews. The extensive rock work laid by the CCC work force with water improvements illustrates the time and effort put forth by the CCC men. Non-water improvements lack such distinctive elements identifiable to CCC workmanship.

Association and Feeling: The integrity of association and feeling requires the integrity of the physical qualities of the historic resource, thereby the integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

Name of Property Sub-Type: Telephone Lines

Description: This property type includes telephone lines constructed by the CCC work force. Forest Service telephone lines presumably were a single wire grounded circuit telephone line commonly used from 1910 to the early 1930s. During the CCC-era, metallic two-wire lines replaced the single wire lines as they provided improved “tonal quality or clarity”; however, the new metallic lines were difficult to maintain. The CCC workers dug holes, set the posts, and stretched wire. Poles generally measured 25 feet, though could vary depending on the topography, and were set about 175 feet apart along straight stretches. The holes were dug 2 ½ to 6 feet deep. Wire, insulators and brackets were standard but the poles were considerably below standard. Most main telephone lines followed road corridors.¹⁸³

National Register Criterion A: telephone lines on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if they:

- 1) are associated with CCC development during the defined period of significance. Only telephone lines erected by the CCC in the Ashland and Beartooth districts will be considered for listing in the National Register under this MPD.

National Register Criterion C: telephone lines on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if they:

- 1) a good representative example of historic Forest Service engineering developments constructed by the CCC. Although the CCC telephone lines generally exhibit no distinctive characteristics different from Forest Service telephone lines, the introduction of the metallic line coincided with the arrival of the CCC on National Forest and therefore represents advancement in the Forest Service communication system. In addition, the remote locations where telephone lines were constructed often witnessed fire activity; replacement of poles occurred as a matter of course. Areas displaying stretches of historic CCC-related lines are eligible.

Integrity

Location: CCC telephone lines must retain their original location in order to reflect its historic appearance and character.

Design: CCC telephone lines must retain their original alignment and placement, a consideration of the historic design across the landscape. While it is unlikely that the original alignment of a CCC telephone line still exists from beginning to end due to changes in the man-made landscape, shorter segments must retain integrity of design.

¹⁸³ US Department of the Interior National Park Service, “State Parks Emergency Conservation Work,” application submitted by Rosebud County, June 29, 1934, Folder 6, Box 37, RG 95, National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, WA; J.H. “Bud” Coats, *Communications in the National Forests of the Northern Region: A History of Telephone and Radio*, USDA Forest Service Northern Region, 24 –25.

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Setting: The surroundings of CCC work projects like telephone poles should not be compromised and reflect the historic period of construction. Although some modern intrusions are inevitable, integrity of setting is compromised by substantial impacts to the immediate environment.

Materials and Workmanship: The Forest Service developed a standardized method for telephone construction and maintenance; regulating the type of materials and replacement of poles with similar materials would have no effect on integrity. Replacement materials of a noncompatible material would result in lost integrity of materials.

Feeling and Association: A telephone line has integrity if it has retained most of its original materials and alignment and still reflects the rural isolated environment of its historic period.

Name of Property Sub-Type: Forest Products

Description: The property type CCC timber production and improvement incorporates post and pole production and timber treatment, and timber stand improvements. Post and pole production involved cutting and peeling fence posts and telephone poles. Timber treatment plants include the location where the posts and poles were treated for future utilization, which included the use of open circular tank filled with creosote set over a fire. Timber improvement included the thinning practices to improve the growth and development of the forest, removing undesirable trees or opening up a stand of timber to aid growth.

National Register Criterion A: Resources associated with Forest Products on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if they:

- 1) are associated with CCC development during the defined period of significance. Only forest product-related resources associated with the CCC in the Ashland and Beartooth districts will be considered for listing in the National Register under this MPD.

It is unlikely that any resources associated with the Forest Products property type would be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C or Criterion D.

Integrity

Location: CCC timber production and improvements must retain their original location to reflect their historic character.

Design: CCC timber production and improvements would not reflect any design elements.

Setting: The surroundings of CCC work projects should not be compromised and must remain relatively undisturbed. Substantial intrusions affect the integrity of setting.

Material and Workmanship: Integrity of materials and workmanship would be reflected through Association and Feeling: Integrity of association and feeling requires the integrity of the physical qualities of the work projects.

Association and Feeling: The timber production and improvement must be associated with CCC work projects on the Ashland District. Similar to integrity of setting, feeling is reflected through the remote locations where these types of activities occurred.

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Name of Property Sub-Type: CCC Campgrounds

Description: Camping is probably the most popular recreational activity on the Beartooth District compared to the Ashland District. Developed campgrounds are usually accessible by roads and have an available water supply. Size of the campground can range from small primitive camp sites to large acreages. During the CCC period, campground planning emerged as a viable element of forest management. Trailers had become popular by the end of the 1930s, demanding larger campgrounds to accommodate a vehicle and towed trailer.

Campgrounds usually maintained a natural setting, generally alongside a creek. The size and usage of the campground decided what camp facilities would be provided. Components to campgrounds could include roadways, parking areas, road barriers, tables, benches, stoves, toilets, garbage pits, fireplaces, campfire circles, signs, playgrounds, trails and camping units with camp stoves, benches, and tables. The construction of the fireplaces, stoves and campfire circles allowed CCC labor the opportunity to exhibit creative rock work. Extensive rock work was involved in the construction of camp structures like fireplaces, campfire rings and stone incinerators. Spring boxes were often built of stone or concrete. Campground design utilized large boulders and rocks as borders along the roadways, trail and parking spurs.

National Register Criterion A: Campgrounds on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if they:

- 1) are associated with CCC development during the defined period of significance. Only campgrounds associated with the CCC in the Ashland and Beartooth districts will be considered for listing in the National Register under this MPD.

National Register Criterion C: a campground on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) generally conforms to the design standards for campgrounds utilized by the CCC during the period of significance. Beginning in the early 1930s, campgrounds generally were designed with certain specifications, often following established forest service recreational plans. The presence of recreational engineers and landscape technicians also added to campground designs and improvements.
- 2) exhibits design features characteristic of CCC construction. A distinct CCC method of construction evolved distinguished by rock work and has become the recognizable element of CCC work on National Forest. The stone masonry constructed at the campgrounds for fireplaces, camp stoves, incinerators and campfire rings left a lasting legacy to the existence of the CCC.
- 3) is unique or displays exceptional construction. While most campgrounds constructed by the CCC followed a general blueprint, some campgrounds may contain features of exceptional or unusual design meriting consideration beyond their association with the CCC.

Integrity

Location: The campground must be situated in its original location where it was originally constructed.

Design: The original design or plan of development of the campground should be retained to convey its original historic

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appearance and character. The roadway and parking spurs should still be recognizable. Integrity of design is retained if a portion of an original campground exists that exhibits enough discernible historic features and structures that still reflect the original configuration. The presence of rock work, like stone campfire rings or stone fireplaces, would strengthen the integrity of design. The integrity of design is lost when the campground has undergone considerable reconstruction with new roads, parking spaces, restrooms, shelters, and fireplaces, destroying the original site layout.

Setting: An important element of National Forest campgrounds is to blend with the natural setting. Integrity of setting on such lands is virtually assured due to the remoteness of the location. A CCC campground loses integrity of setting with the introduction of an intrusive development near the campground, such as a major subdivision, within its viewshed. The setting may also be compromised if the campground has been greatly expanded.

Materials: CCC campgrounds retain integrity of materials if stone work on campground facilities remain. Stone work was prevalent throughout CCC constructed campgrounds from fireplaces and campfire rings to incinerators. A different type of rock work composed of large boulders defined the roadways and camping areas. CCC campgrounds suffer a loss of integrity with the removal or replacement of historic materials.

Workmanship: CCC campgrounds must retain the historic evidence of the workmanship of the CCC crews. The rock work prevalent at campgrounds conveys the distinctive style developed by the CCC work force. Integrity of workmanship is lost if the historic campground structures are removed or replaced by non-compatible materials.

Association and Feeling: The integrity of association and feeling requires the integrity of the physical qualities of the historic resource, thereby the integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

Name of Property Sub-Type: CCC Trails

Description: The construction of trails, while serving a function for fire control, also opened up recreational opportunities on forest lands, especially on the Beartooth District which has always been a primarily recreational district. Many of the Forest Service trail systems were primarily pack trails and some provided access for the sheep grazers at the higher elevations. These trails, like roads, were built to varying standards depending upon the type of terrain traversed. Construction considerations included clearing, tread width, grade, slope, shoulder, switchbacks, retaining walls, drainage, culverts and bridges. Retaining walls that stabilize the trail base on side slopes offered a wonderful potential for distinctive CCC work to evolve. Rock work could also be displayed at drainage structures.

Registration Requirements

National Register Criterion A: a trail on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) is associated with CCC development during the defined period of significance. While a number of trails exist within the Ashland and Beartooth districts, only those constructed or improved by the CCC will be considered for listing in the National Register under this MPD.
- 2) is associated with the distribution of goods, materials or people, including recreation, within the Ashland or Beartooth districts during the period of significance. Trails made by the CCC remain in use. These same

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trails were also used by the CCC at the time of their construction to improve passage through the districts. The trails were used by both recreationalists and for utilitarian purposes, such as moving sheep to higher elevations during the summer.

National Register Criterion C: a trail or trail feature on the Ashland or Beartooth district may be eligible for listing in the National Register if it:

- 1) exhibits design features characteristic of CCC construction. CCC trails have the ability to illustrate distinctive methods of construction through use of native stone. A distinctive style of rock work evolved by the CCC under Forest Service supervision characterized by extensive, impressive dry-laid, hand placed stone masonry, most visible on retaining walls used in various ways along a trail.

Integrity

Location: Integrity of location is paramount for CCC trails to convey their historic appearance and characteristic.

Design: CCC trails must retain those structures that clearly exhibit distinctive CCC rock work. The construction of trails allowed for the CCC work force to construct impressive structures along the trails utilizing local materials. The presence of these stone structures, primarily as retaining walls, reflects the original appearance and character of the trail. Segments where rock work has been replaced with compatible materials should have no impact on the integrity.

Setting: The surroundings of the trail should not be compromised and the area through which it passes relatively undisturbed. Since most trails on the Ashland and Beartooth districts travel through the wilderness, setting is unlikely to be affected. However, setting would be lost if a major intrusion, like a mine, would develop within the view shed of the trail.

Materials: CCC trails should retain original materials to define the distinctive style of construction. While trails themselves are often limited to ground clearing, the rock used for retaining walls and other similar features was collected along the trail and placed manually. Replacement materials are acceptable if they easily blend with the original rock work and most of the original rock work is intact. Integrity of materials is severely compromised if the majority of the rock work has been removed, altered or replaced.

Workmanship: CCC trails must retain the historic evidence of the workmanship constructed by the CCC work force. The workmanship of the CCC work force created the distinctive style that has become the signature of CCC presence on National Forest. The trail should be able to convey its historic character by the presence of the dry-laid, hand placed rock work. Integrity of workmanship severely compromised if a large majority of the trail has been reconstructed and rock work replaced.

Association and Feeling: The integrity of association and feeling requires the integrity of physical qualities of the historic resource, thereby the integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

G. Geographical Data

This document applies to the CCC presence within the Ashland and Beartooth Districts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana.

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H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

This multiple property documentation is based on two 2002 reports: the CCC on the Ashland District of the Custer National Forest (now Custer Gallatin National Forest and the CCC on the Beartooth District of the Custer National Forest (now the Custer Gallatin National Forest). It also used work completed by Mike Bergstrom of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The methodology for this project was designed to document through available historic records CCC activities on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. No on-site investigations were conducted as part of this study besides personal reconnaissance to become familiar with areas.

Detailed discussions include the historic context developed for the CCC camps on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts; a description of identified CCC work projects, and the property type recognized for CCC work projects on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts.

The following individuals assisted the author in the preparation of this report: Bruce Larsen created all the maps, Lynn Peterson and John Boughton organized the water development tables, Craig Austin scanned all the photographs and Marilyn Ross assisted in the preparation of the final document.

Research to document CCC activities on the Ashland District was conducted at local, state and national repositories and Federal agencies. Forest Service records and CCC organization records were reviewed at the National Archives in Washington D.C., National Archives-Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO and National Archives-Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle, Washington. Bureau of Indian Affairs records were also reviewed at the National Archives-Rocky Mountain Region. The remainder of the research was conducted in Montana. Forest Service records at the Forest Service Regional Office (Region 1) in Missoula, Montana, the Custer National Forest Supervisor's Office in Billings, Montana and the Ashland District Ranger Station in Ashland, Montana were extensively investigated. Other repositories visited included: Montana State University Libraries at Bozeman and Billings, Montana; Parmly Billings Library, Billings, Montana; the Montana Historical Society Library and Archives, including the Photo Archives, Helena, Montana; the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and K. Ross Toole Archives at the University of Montana, and the Fort Missoula Museum and Archives, both in Missoula, Montana, the Dr. John Woodenlegs Memorial Library at Chief Dull Knife College, Lame Deer, Montana and the Peaks to Plains Museum and Carbon County Historical Society Archives, Red Lodge, Montana.

Newspapers reviewed for the years 1934 and 1935 when CCC camps existed on the Ashland District included the *Billings Gazette*, the *Miles City Star*, the *Forysth Independent* and the *Powder River Examiner*. Montana newspapers reviewed for the years 1933, 1939-1941 when CCC camps existed on the Beartooth District included the *Billings Gazette*, the *Carbon County News*, the *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, the *Columbus News* and the *Bridger Times*. The *New York Times* also was reviewed for specific dates. Bill Sharp's indexes to the *Missoulian*, the *Montana Standard* and the *Great Falls Tribune* were all reviewed for pertinent information. The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni in St. Louis, MO and the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, IL were also contacted for any pertinent materials. Jerry Leggate, historian for the Billings Lions Club and Don Jones, secretary of the Billings Rotary Club, graciously researched

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their archives for pertinent information.

Conversations with Forest Service personnel at both the regional and district levels assisted in identifying potential sources of information. Transcripts of interviews taken with former CCC enrollees provided information relative to the CCC experience at the various camps. Local histories and conversations with local residents, particularly grazing permittees on the Ashland District like Irving Alderson, Ted Fletcher, Gary Bull, Sam Lei, Jim Lei, Dan Kraft, Carl Phillips, Don Cain and Ray Smith, contributed to the understanding of the CCC presence in the district.

Photographs of CCC activities in Montana and on the Ashland and Beartooth District were reviewed at the Montana Historical Society Photo Archives, Helena, Montana, the photo collection at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Custer National Forest, Billings, Montana and Flash's Photography in Red Lodge, Montana.

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